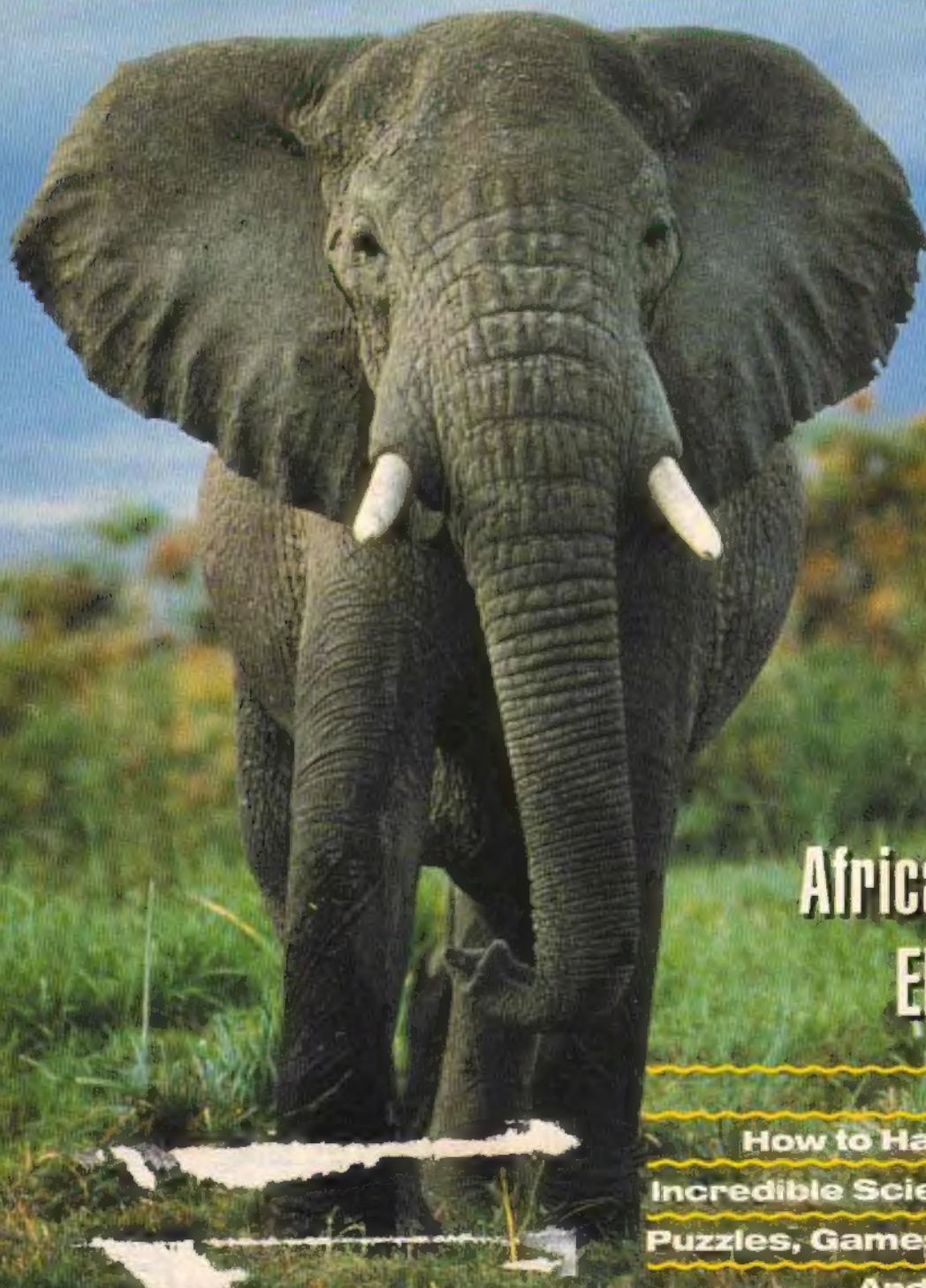


321

CHILDREN'S TELEVISION WORKSHOP EXPLORES THE WORLD

# CONTACT

MAY 1998



## Africa Without Elephants?

Plus:

How to Handle Stress  
Incredible Science Photos  
Puzzles, Games, Comics—  
And Much More



# FREE BOWLING from **Kool-Aid**

(with 15 Kool-Aid points)

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**2**

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ON OUR COVER

An African elephant roams the plains of Kenya.

Photo: © Lawrence Schiller/Photo Researchers, Inc.

# C O N T E N T S

## FEATURES

- 10 Flash:**  
A Gallery of  
Science Photos

- 14 Stay Cool!**  
A Game Plan to  
Deal with Stress

- 18 Big Troubles:**  
Could African Elephants  
Become Extinct?

- 20 Have You "Herd"?**  
A CONTACT Poster

## SQUARE ONE TV

- 28 Tricky Trading**  
Card Puzzles

- 30 Factman:**  
A Comic Puzzle

## ON OUR COVER

An African elephant roams the plains of Kenya.  
Photo: © Lawrence Schiller/Photo Researchers, Inc.

## DEPARTMENTS

- TNT: Newsblasts **2**

- Factoids **4**

- Any Questions? **6**

- Mail **8**

- The Slipped Disk  
Show **24**

- Basic Training **26**

- The Bloodhound  
Gang **34**

- Contact Lens **37**

- Extral **38**

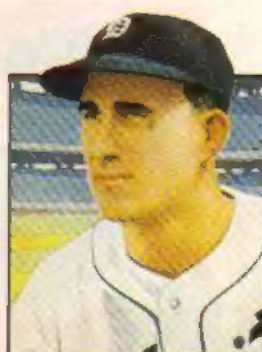
- Did It **40**



**2**



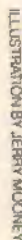
**14**



**28**



Scientists in Denmark and West Germany wanted to study how bees communicate with each other. So they built a computer-controlled "bee-bot" and sent it dancing



Honeybees dance, or "waggle," in patterns to tell each other information, such as where to find food. Scientists are learning bee language by moving the robot in different patterns. Then they watch how the real bees react.

A full-body view of the A7L space suit, showing the helmet, torso, and limbs against a red background. The suit is white with black and gold accents. The helmet is large and rounded with a clear visor. The torso is cylindrical with a black band around the waist. The limbs are long and segmented, with black and gold bands at the joints. The suit is shown in a standing position.



So NASA, the U.S. space agency, is shopping around for the best space suit they can find. The wearers of these suits will be building the space station *Freedom*. NASA hopes to start building it in the



**TS** Two companies are trying to prove that they have designed the better suit. The ILC Company has designed an all-metal suit, weighing 185 pounds. It's good protection from teeny meteors, radiation and other space hazards. But it's also hard to move around in.

Who will win the contest?  
The design that "suits" the  
astronauts best.





## Ferret Comeback

Two years ago, the black-footed ferret was the rarest mammal in the world. There were only 18 of them on the entire planet. Well, here's some happy news: The ferrets are back!

Scientists and wildlife officials took all 18 ferrets to a breeding farm in Wyoming. The farm is close to where the furry animals had been living in the wild. The scientists hoped someday to be able to release the ferrets back out on their own. Thanks to the scientists' careful work, the ferret population is now over 100—and climbing fast!

By next year, scientists will have raised more than 400 ferrets and will start sending them back into the wilderness

of Wyoming. A big question then will be whether the ferrets, who have grown up in captivity, will know how to hunt for prairie

dogs. That's what ferrets normally eat.

The ferrets will still be an endangered species for many years. But now, their chances look, um, *furry* good.

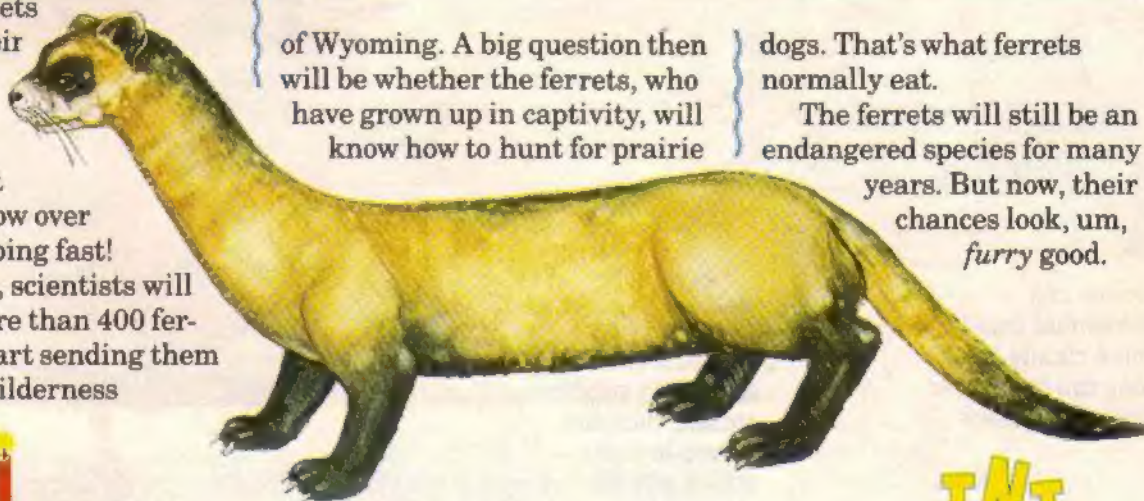


ILLUSTRATION BY RACHEL CORNETT

## A Chip Off the Old Squash

Wait a minute. That zucchini, it looks like...Ronald Reagan!

This squash isn't an accident of nature. It was grown inside a Vegiform, a plastic mold that turns vegetables into all kinds of unusual shapes. Some of them include the faces of Ronald Reagan, George Bush and Elvis Presley.

"Vegetables do pretty much what you want them to," says Richard Tweddell of Vegiforms, Inc., a company in Cincinnati, OH. To make these amazing sculptures, Tweddell

slips a growing vegetable inside the Vegiform. As it gets bigger, it takes on the mold's shape. Vegiforms can be used with cucumbers, pumpkins or any kind of squash. "But eggplants work the best," Tweddell told CONTACT.

In addition to molds of famous people, there are Vegiforms that can shape cucumbers into hearts or diamonds. There's even a mold that will make a squash look like an ear of corn. And, for a lot of money, Vegiforms Inc. will make a special mold that can make your vegetables look just like you!



PHOTO © COURTESY/RICHARD TWEDDELL

PHOTO © DAVID FRAZER/PHOTOGRAPHY



**HI HOE!** This tractor is perfect for harvesting a 5,000-pound potato. Just kidding! The tractor is actually a 90-foot-high hot air balloon. It set sail last year at the Western Idaho Fair.



## So What's New?

You tell us and you'll get a nifty CONTACT T-shirt—if we print your story. Send us any science story from the news that you think our readers would like to know about. (Be sure to tell us your T-shirt size and where you heard the story.)

Send to:  
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# FACT

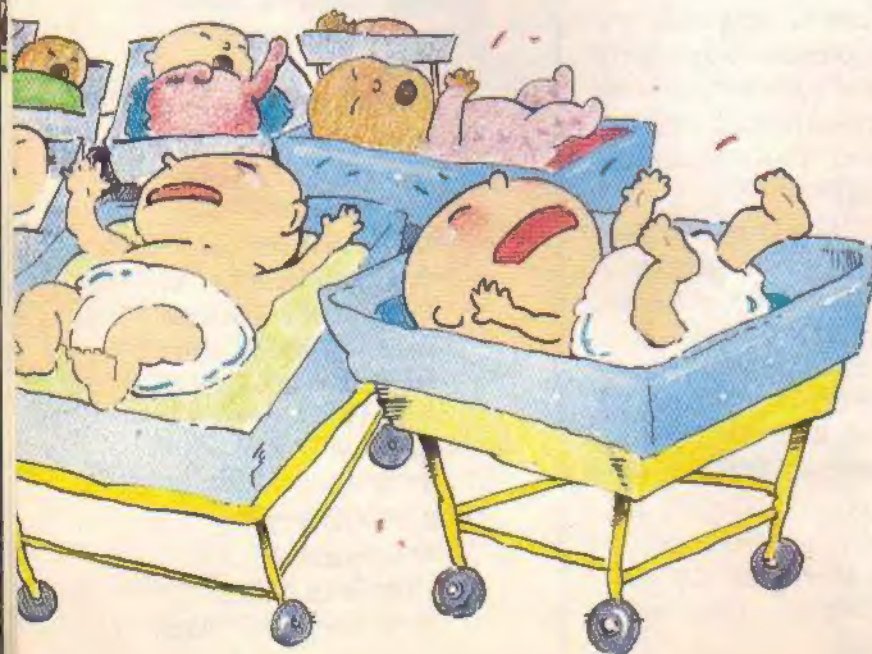


Humans can remember smells more clearly than they can remember how objects look.

The oldest known bird was a sulphur-crested cockatoo. It lived in a zoo until it was 80 years old.



In the U.S., more babies are born on Tuesday than on any other day.





# Olds



The Earth's spin is slowing down all the time. So every 82 years, days become one second longer.



The average American will eat 108,000 slices of bread in a lifetime.



There are about 2,700 species of snakes in the world.



# ANY QUESTIONS?

By Amy Roberts and Diana Fisher



ILLUSTRATIONS BY VALERIE MARSELLA

## WHY DO WOLVES HOWL AT THE MOON?

They don't. It's just a myth. Scientists have found that wolves howl when they are most active. This is mostly at night and in the early morning.

The howling myth goes back to the days when people didn't have electricity. If the moon was full, the night would be bright enough for farmers to work outside. And once outside, they were able to hear the wolves howling.

A wolf's howl can be heard up to four miles away — but the sound carries best in open spaces. So if the farmers were inside, they'd be less likely to hear the noise.

What is a howl? To a wolf, it can mean many things. A howl might be a wolf's way of saying: "Hey bub, this is my land. Stay away." A howl might be the pack's alarm clock in the morning. It can also be a way to call stray wolves back to the pack. And that's about the howl, um... whole...of it — A.R.

*Question sent in by Katy Rogers, Yellville, AR.*

## WHY ARE THERE HOLES IN BREAD?

When you bake bread, one of the most important ingredients is yeast. The whitish powder that comes out of a package is actually *alive*. Yeast is a tiny, one-celled fungus that grows very quickly when it's warm and damp. When you mix yeast with flour, sugar, eggs, water, and all the other stuff you put in bread, there's a chemical reaction.

The yeast eats the sugar and turns it into carbon dioxide and alcohol. While the yeast is growing, it gives off gases that bubble up through the dough and make it rise. These gas bubbles also make the holes in the bread.

Cakes have holes in them, too. The holes are made by bubbles of gas, but they're caused by baking soda — not yeast. When baking soda is wetted and heated, it makes carbon dioxide, too. This gas bubbles through the cake, making it rise while it's baking. So, you might say baking is a gas! — A.R.

*Question sent in by Nicole Plaisted, San Diego, CA.*







## HOW

### DO INSECTS BREATHE?

Unlike humans or other animals, insects don't have lungs. Instead, they get oxygen into their bodies through breathing holes called "spiracles." The spiracles are located on the middle or end part of an insect. These holes lead to air tubes that travel through the body. The air tubes deliver oxygen directly to all of the insects' cells. Insects use oxygen to help change food into energy. An insect can have one to 10 spiracles on each side of its body. A flea, for example, usually has six.

Insects that live in the water also have spiracles. But they have special ways to get air while keeping the water out. A whirligig traps air under its wings. This creates a watertight pocket between its spiracles and its wings. The insect can breathe oxygen from this protected "bubble" of air. When the oxygen supply runs out, the whirligig returns to the surface to get a new air bubble. So, what does a busy bug need? A breather! — D.F.

*Question sent in by Albertina Walski, San Bernardino, CA.*

## HOW

### DOES YOUR BRAIN TELL YOUR BODY WHAT TO DO?

The human brain is made up of 10 billion nerve cells. These cells send tiny, painless electrical impulses all over your body. The impulses are really messages that tell your body what to do.

Here's how it works: Let's say you accidentally put your finger on a hot stove. Thanks to the electrical impulses, the nerves in your finger send off a signal to your brain. The brain receives these impulses and translates them to another signal — pain. Ouch! The brain then sends a signal to the muscles in your hand. The muscles contract and you pull your hand off the stove. Of course, this all happens in less than a second!

Different areas of the brain control different behaviors. For example, the part of your brain that controls muscle reflexes also regulates body temperature and feelings of hunger. Another part of your brain controls voluntary actions like walking. Still another controls breathing and heart rate.

Although scientists understand how parts of the brain work, much remains a mystery. — A.R.

*Question sent in by Ryan Bartusek, Hanlontown, IA.*



Do you have a question  
that no one seems able to answer?  
Why not ask us? Write to:  
Any Questions? 3-2-1  
Contact, P.O. Box 40, Vernon,  
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# MAIL

## Contest Roundup

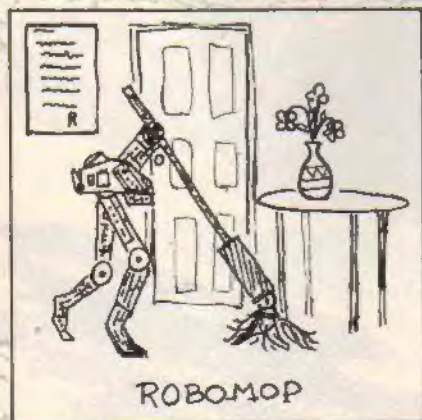
Here are the winners of our *Take a Walk on the Far Side* contest (October 1989). Thousands of you sent in some really far-out cartoons—thanks everyone!

**Jason Bellini** of Houston, TX, won first place with this cartoon:

Well-get-your-finger-out-of-your-ear,-and-we'll-talk



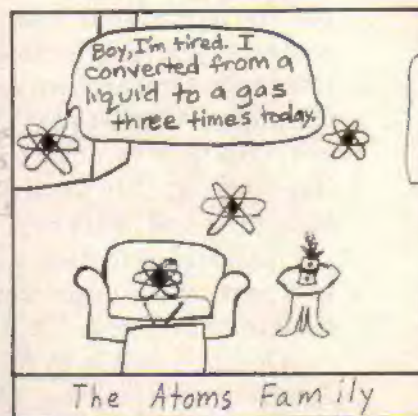
Our five second place winners were:



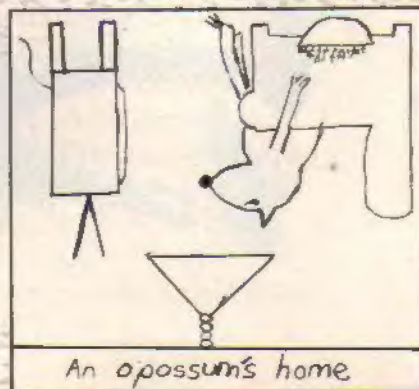
**Jason Chin**  
Lyme, NH



**Megan Cutting**  
Rochester Hills, MI



**John Moreland**  
Camarillo, CA



**Jesse Livingston**  
Englewood, CO



**Dan Markiewicz**  
Latrobe, PA

Here are some other artists who deserve honorable mention for their fun cartoons:

**Erika Stratton**  
Lee, ME

**Nayiri Krikorian**  
New City, NY

**Bobby Cooma**  
Rock Valley, IA

**Cara Ciasulli**  
Neptune, NJ

**Matt Swain**  
Chula Vista, CA

**Jessica Rosin**  
Seminole, FL

**Jill Zimmerman**  
New City, NY

**Michael Davis**  
Charleston, TN

**Mark Mitten**  
Colorado Springs, CO



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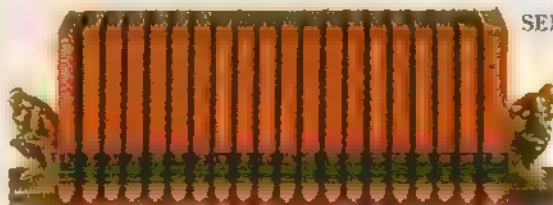
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# FLASH

## A GALLERY OF SCIENCE

*The world celebrated an important birthday recently: The 150th anniversary of the photograph. Since that first picture was taken so long ago, photos have opened up new worlds.*



PHOTO: EDUCATIONAL WATTS SCIENTIFIC PHOTO LIBRARY PHOTO: RESEARCHERS INC.

*In a flash, cameras and photos make it possible for doctors to look inside the human body, for scientists to capture a drop of water as it falls to earth, and for us to get a close-up view of worlds never before seen by the naked eye.*

Common events — such as this drop of water making a splash — can be beautiful when seen through the eyes of a camera.

*So join us as we enter the amazing world of science seen through the lens of a camera!*



PHOTO: EDUCATIONAL WATTS SCIENTIFIC PHOTO LIBRARY PHOTO: RESEARCHERS INC.



# PHOTOS

Look up in the sky! It's the animal kingdom's version of Batman. A photographer used a high-speed camera to take this picture of a fruit bat in flight. The camera makes it look like the bat isn't moving—but it's actually beating its wings at 10 to 12 strokes per second!

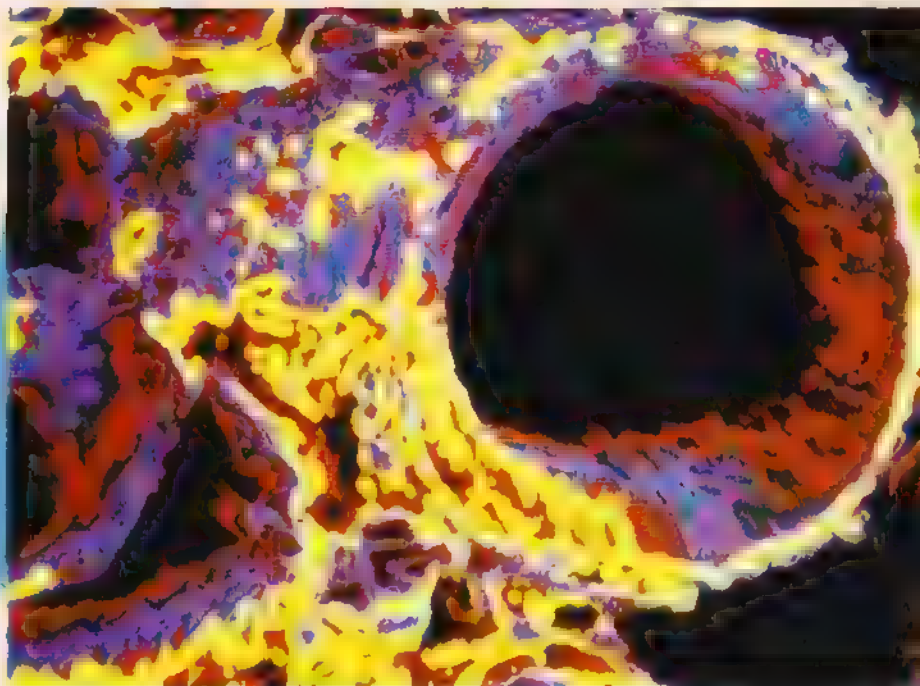


PHOTO © HOWARD SOCHUREK/MEDICHRONE

Cameras help doctors see inside people. This picture of an artery in the human brain gives clues to doctors about the inner health of a patient. Pictures of parts of the body which never showed up on X-rays are helping doctors save thousands of lives each year.

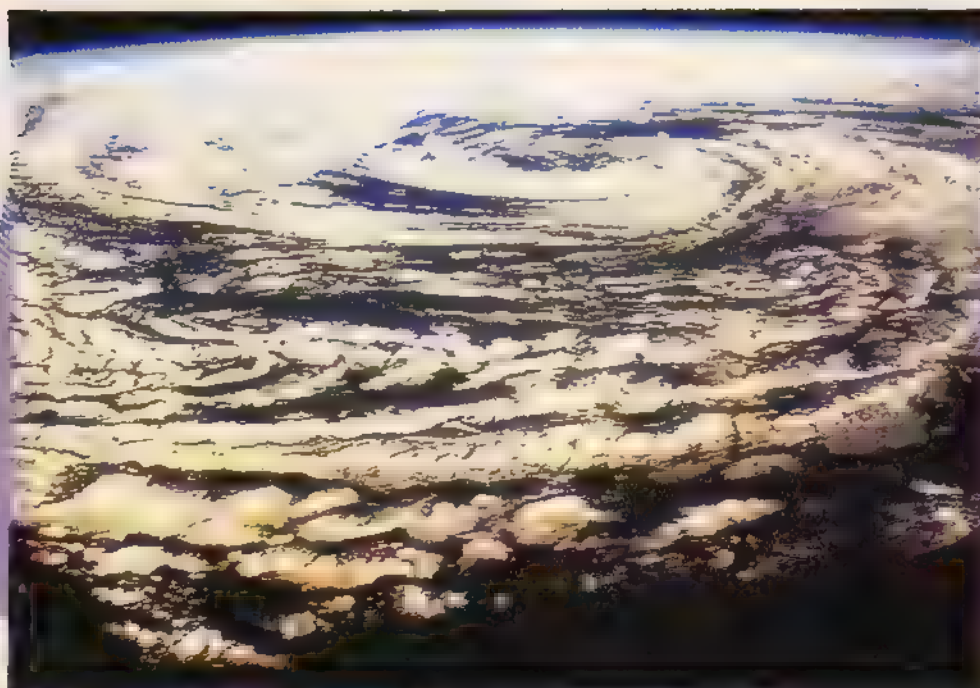


PHOTO © NASA/SCIENCE SOURCE PHOTO RESEARCHERS, INC.

Thanks to a telescopic lens, this picture of a hurricane was taken by a satellite from several hundred miles above Earth.

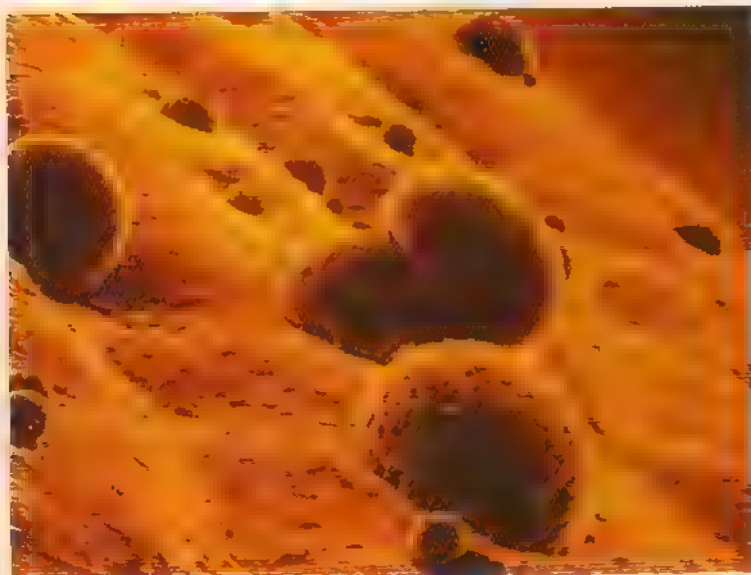
Weather photos taken from space can help scientists learn more about storms. Just as important, photos can help scientists track a storm's path and warn people to seek shelter.



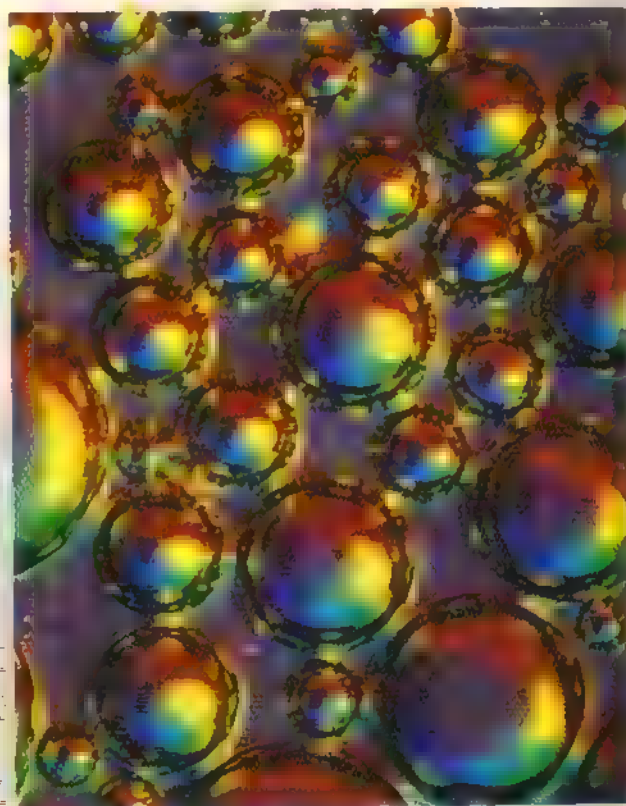


The picture of a man drinking a mug of hot coffee is called a thermogram (say: THUR-moh-gram). Sensitive film picks up the heat from an object, and "color codes" it. White shows the hottest parts, and blue is the coldest. Red, orange and green are in between hot and cold.

Earlier in this issue you read about how to chill out and stay calm. But what if you can't? Sweaty hands are often the result. Now, at least you know what they look like. A camera attached to a microscope took this photo of beads of sweat on a human finger.



Colorful bubbles are captured in this close-up photo of something you probably use all the time: shampoo. The bubbles show the foaming action that helps get your hair clean.

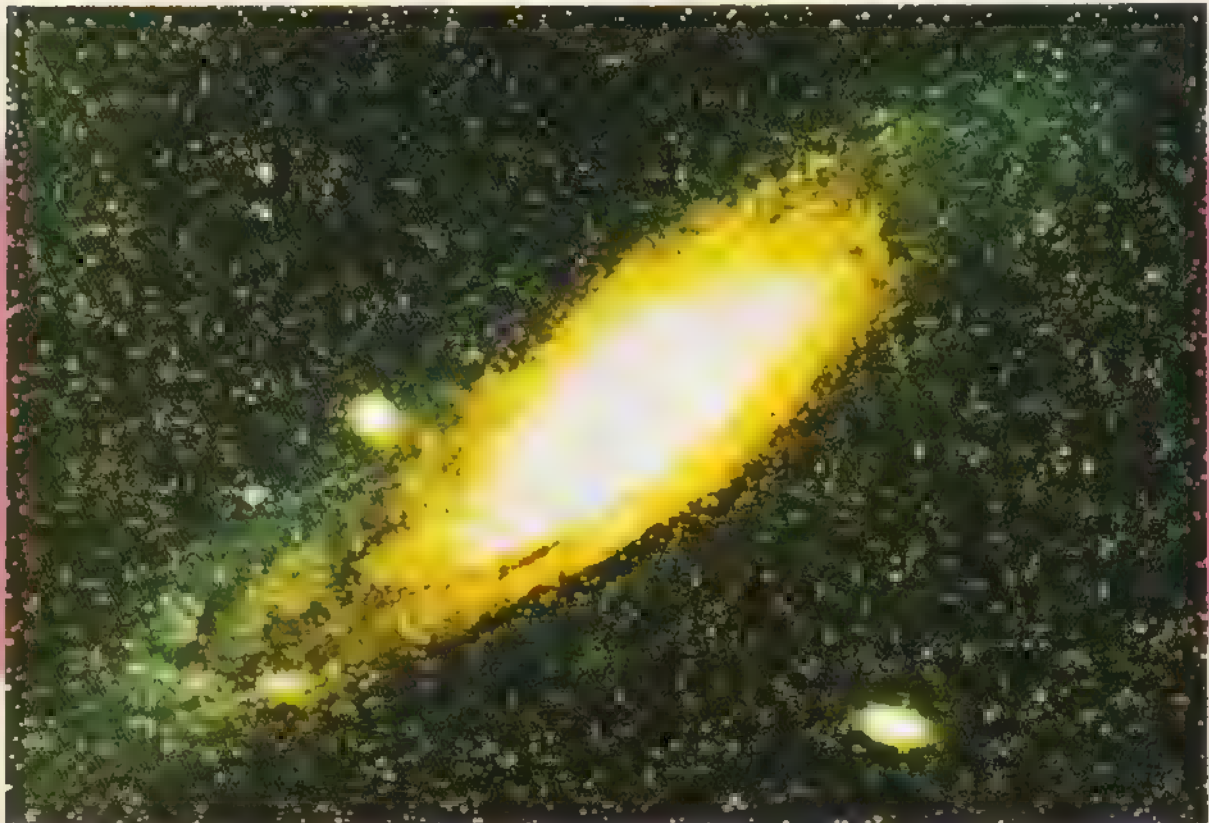






This creature isn't an alien from outer space. In fact, it's probably crawling around your front yard. It's a very enlarged photo of the head of a common black garden ant. The picture was taken with a kind of camera that is also a microscope. The camera helps scientists study the structures of animals.

The Andromeda Galaxy was photographed through a large telescope. (It is the galaxy closest to our own Milky Way.) To the naked eye, Andromeda looks like a dim smudge of light in the sky. When seen through a telescope, however, it becomes a brilliant swirl of color, made up of billions of stars.





# STAY COOL!

## A GAME PLAN TO DEAL WITH

## STRESS

by Lisa Feder-Fettel

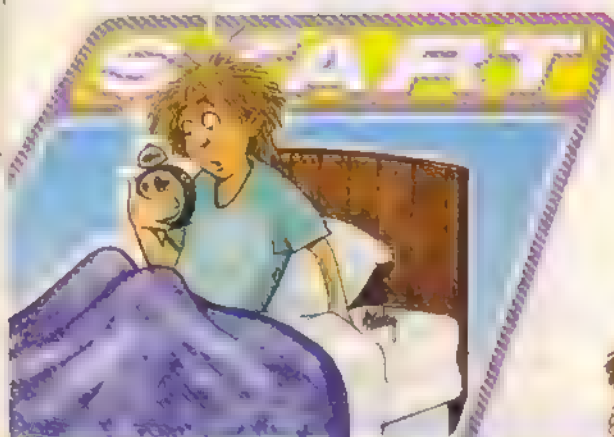


It was our last Little League game of the season," 10-year-old Nathaniel recalls. "If we won, we would clinch the championship. I played third base, but I hardly remember a thing. My whole body was one big tingle. Every time the ball flew my

way I panicked. Even though we won, I felt awful!"

Simon, who is in sixth grade, knows how Nathaniel felt. Last year, Simon had to talk about his science project to 150 classmates and teachers. "I'd gone over it a lot," he told CONTACT, "but I still felt scared. I was sick to my stomach. But I concentrated on my report, on each word I was saying, and it came out okay."

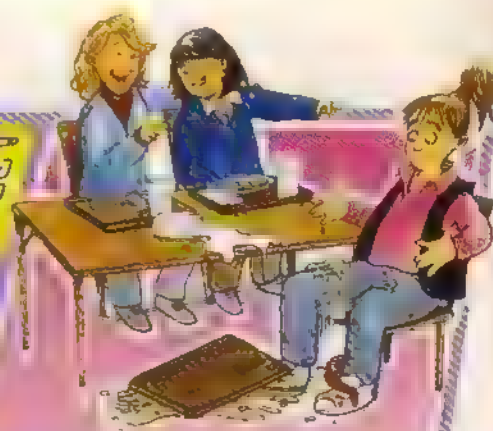
Harriet is 14. She got upset when something good happened to her. "The coolest guy in school asked me to the school dance," she told CONTACT. "I was so nervous that I would do or say something stupid. When we went out, I started to sweat. My head was pounding, I felt dizzy. It was terrible."



LATE AGAIN



A HURRY MOVE!



UH OH, SURPRISE QUIZ



GREAT GRADES!

REPORT CARD  
HISTORY A  
ENGLISH A  
ALGEBRA A  
PHYS. ED B+  
GEOGRAPHY A  
BIOLOGY A



## Oh What A Feeling

**A** strange and sneaky feeling gripped all three kids at important moments. Was it a flu? Their symptoms fit: dizziness, upset stomach, racing pulse, the sweats.

Doctors say no, and point to the causes: An important game, a speech to a packed school auditorium, a date, and the fear and worry that go along with them.

"Many people call the feelings that come from these events, stress," says Dr. Istar Schwager, an educational psychologist. "But actually it's fear or nervousness. If a person is fearful or nervous over a period of time, then it leads to a condition called stress."

"No matter what you call it, everyone suffers from some nervousness," notes Dr. Schwager. "Kids and adults alike. And it's important for all of us to look at what is causing the upsets in our

lives—and try to figure out ways to make some positive changes."

Events that cause feelings of upset are called stressors, explains Dr. Robert Spitalnik. He is a psychologist who works with kids. In his work, he has seen all kinds of stressors.

"A stressor is usually an event that causes you to feel bad," Dr. Spitalnik says. "It might be a fight with your parents or a friend, or trouble at school," he told CONTACT.

People tend to think that stressors are only bad events: poor grades, a divorce or a death in the family, for example. But some good events can also be stressors: being asked out, making good grades, getting married, taking a vacation or getting a pet.

## Chilling Thoughts

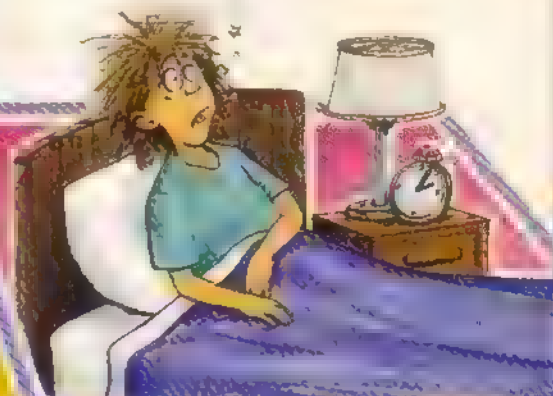
**A**n event doesn't even have to happen to be a stressor. Just the thought of it can be stressful. Dr. Spitalnik offers these examples:

"A bad memory about a past event can spook you," he says. "For instance, if you failed to make the soccer team last year, that memory might make you really nervous. It could stop you from making the team again—even if you trained for it!"

Sometimes thinking about an event that hasn't taken place yet can be stressful.

"A worry or anticipation," Dr. Spitalnik says, "such as 'Will my friends like my new haircut?' or 'Will I pass tomorrow's test?' can cause more stress than either the test or the haircut." ☞

DR. BROTHHER!



TOSS AND TURN



BUTTER FINGERS



MEET MR. COOL



# STAY COOL!

## A GAME PLAN TO DEAL WITH STRESS

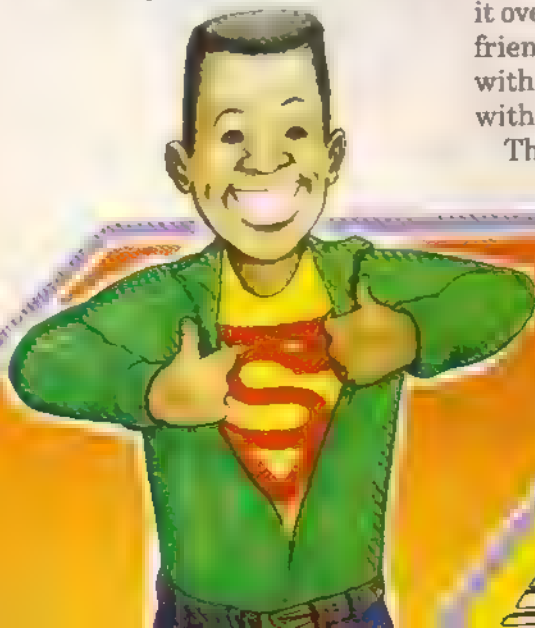
### Don't Worry, Be Happy

**W**hether it's a visit to the dentist, a missed schoolbus, or a tryout for the school play, almost any event can be a stressor—or not—depending on how you feel about it. Funny thing is, if you feel “bad” about it—nervous, anxious, excited—then your body begins to feel “bad” too.

Stomachaches, headaches, lack of energy or not being able to sleep, are all signs of anxiety or fear. But everyone has his or her special symptoms.

“Whenever I get nervous in school, I snap my fingers a lot,” says Simon.

Thirteen-year-old Stephanie gets into fights. “When I get angry, I yell a lot—I kind of go out of control.” Third baseman Nathaniel became numb and could barely see the ball.



## LET'S TALK IT OVER

### Help Is On The Way

**W**hen your mind and body work together to create nervousness, they can really make you feel awful. But there's hope. You don't have to just sit there and take it. You can change the way you feel.

Many experts agree that an excellent way of calming down is to talk over your feelings with someone you like and respect. You could speak to a parent or other family member, a teacher or a neighbor.

You could also talk over the situation with a friend whom you trust.

Chances are that by talking it over, you and an adult or a friend might be able to come up with some solutions to help deal with the situation.

There are other ways to han-

Sometimes talking to someone you trust and respect will help calm you down. They may have ideas on how you can make yourself feel better.

dle events that can cause stress. Dr. Mario Orlandi studies and writes about stress and its effects. He suggests three ways that kids can help keep it under control: the Change It solution, the Go-With-It solution, and the Mind-Over-Matter solution.

“You can use a combination of all three solutions, or just one to try to solve your stress problems,” says Dr. Orlandi. “Use whatever works!”

● **Change It.** Sometimes you can take control and change a problem so that it disappears—or at least is made easier.

Ruth was always late for school. “It was hard for me to get

If you can't change a situation that makes you nervous, try to be positive about it. Tell yourself it won't be so bad.



If you can't change whatever's making you nervous, you can still do something about it. Exercise! It'll help take your mind off your problems—and will help you feel relaxed.

up in the morning. And I took a lot of time getting dressed. When I got to school, the teacher was angry and I was nervous. I didn't know what to do.

"My teacher spoke to me about it. She suggested that I get up earlier so I would have more time to get ready. I also lay out my clothes the night before. That saves me time. I haven't been late to school in four months!"

Ruth was lucky. She could change her situation. Sometimes, however, there are situations that you can't change or control. What do you do then? You could try the...

#### ● Go-With-It Solution.

"When I get really worked up or worried about something, I try to exercise—like riding my bike," says Nathaniel.

Nathaniel lets his extra energy—his nervousness or stress—work for him. At the same time, the exercise makes him feel better and helps him relax.

Simon does the same, but

adds humor. "I sing to myself— sometimes rock songs that I really hate—and I dance around the room," he says. "It takes my mind on a kind of vacation."

Other people read, jog or daydream as ways to relax.

Dr. Orlandi has one more tip for you to try. It's the...

● **Mind-Over-Matter Solution.** Do you have a big test coming up? That's enough to make anyone nervous. Even if you study for it, you can still get upset. But there's hope. Try to be positive about it.

"Sometimes when my class is about to take a test, everyone's afraid," says Nathaniel. "They

talk about how they're going to fail. I try to look at the bright side. I tell myself that I studied a lot and I could get an A or a B ...and I usually do." Nathaniel uses positive thinking to help himself do well.

#### Helping Yourself

**N**athaniel looks on the bright side or rides his bike. Simon uses humor. Ruth was able to change her situation to make her life easier and less stressful.

But there's still another way. Think back to some stressful situations you've handled well. Figure out how you dealt with them. Let them be lessons to you in the future.

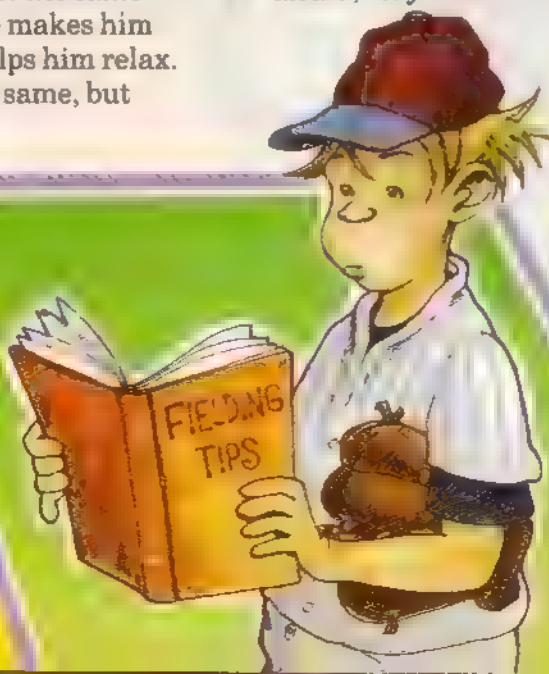
"When you've been through something stressful—big or little," says Simon, "experience pays off." ♦

You may be able to change some events that make you upset. Take control and see if you can't make the problem disappear.

WORK IT OUT



MAKE CHANGES





# BIG TROUBLES

by Richard Chevat

Could  
Africa's  
Huge  
Elephant  
Be  
Endangered?



**W**

What's 20 feet long, 11 feet tall and weighs more than 12,000

pounds? If you guessed the African elephant, you're right. Full-grown elephants are the largest land mammals on Earth. They're so large that they have few natural enemies. But there is something smaller than your hand that can kill a giant elephant. What is it? An ivory bracelet.

"It only takes one ivory bracelet to kill an elephant.



**Last July, anti-poaching supporters in Kenya—an African nation—set fire to a 12-ton mountain of ivory. 3,000 tusks—worth \$3 million dollars—went up in smoke.**



You have to kill it to get the ivory tusks. Elephants are being shot only for their tusks. The rest is left to rot.”

Those are the words of Jorgen Thomsen, an official with the World Wildlife Fund. He is one of the many people around the world who are trying to save the African elephant from dying out. “In 1979 we figured the elephant population to be 1.2 million,” Thomsen told CONTACT. “In 1989 it was down to half that number, only 600,000.” At this rate, African elephants could disappear in the next 10 years!

### **A Weighty Problem**

Most of those elephants were killed by poachers—people who are illegal hunters. The poachers shoot elephants, take their tusks and sell them. Most countries have strict laws that are supposed to control the trade of ivory. But those laws have not been working well. The reason: human greed.

In the past 10 years, the value of ivory has gone up and up. Last year, raw ivory was

worth \$100 a pound. Since the average tusk weighs between 8 and 10 pounds, a poacher can earn up to \$1,000 for killing an elephant. And that’s a lot of money to some African families whose income is as little as \$200 a year.

So, even with strict laws, thousands of elephants continue to be killed illegally for their tusks—and the money they bring. The tusks are smuggled out of Africa to other countries where they’re cut up to make knickknacks, jewelry and other luxury items. These ivory trinkets are then sold in Europe, Japan and the U.S.

But the situation is starting to look better for the elephants, thanks to the work of organizations like the World Wildlife Fund. Last June, the United States outlawed all ivory imports. In October, 100 countries agreed to stop.

“Right now, there’s almost no trade,” says Thomsen. “And it’s due to public pressure and the work of many groups concerned about animals.”

*(Story continues on page 22)*

**Just call this park ranger “Mom.” Because poachers have killed many mother elephants, there are thousands of baby elephant orphans in Africa.**





# WILLOWS ELEPHANTS HAVE YOU HEARD





# ERHANTT FISCIT

ПОР



1. The first paragraph discusses the importance of the elephant population in the savanna ecosystem. It highlights the role of elephants as keystone species, whose presence significantly influences the landscape and the behavior of other animals.

2. The second paragraph focuses on the challenges faced by elephants in their natural habitat. It mentions the impact of poaching, habitat loss, and climate change, which threaten the survival of these magnificent creatures.

3. The third paragraph explores the conservation efforts being implemented to protect elephants. It discusses the role of governments, NGOs, and local communities in creating protected areas, enforcing anti-poaching laws, and promoting sustainable land use practices.



Most older elephants in herds have been wiped out. Park rangers are now trying to protect the younger ones.



(Continued from page 19)

Some groups say that prices for ivory have already dropped dramatically because of the law. They hope the decreasing demand for ivory will stop poachers from wiping out the elephant population in Africa.

### Family Ties

African elephants live in the jungle and also on the open plains, or savannahs. All elephants eat a lot—about 300 pounds of food a day. An elephant will eat all sorts of plants and grasses, roots, bark and parts of trees. Elephants must cover a large area of land to satisfy their huge appetites.

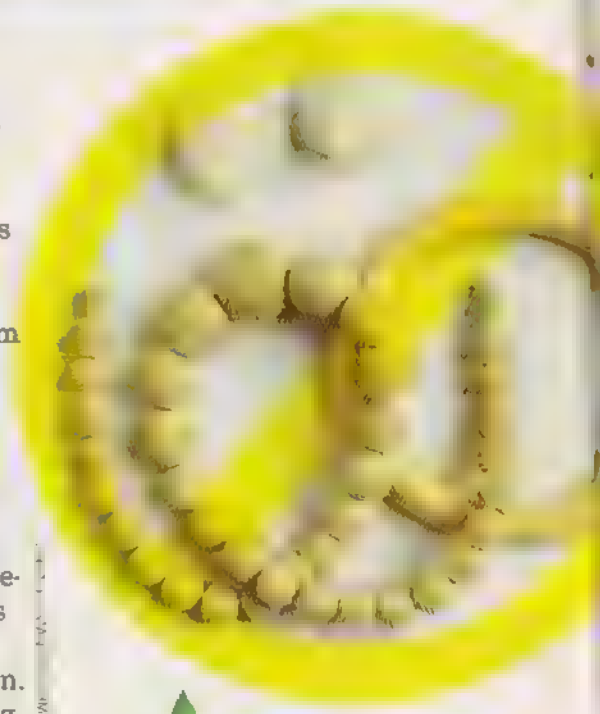
"Elephants live in tight family groups," says Lisa Rapaport, a scientist at the Washington Park Zoo in Portland, Oregon. Male elephants live with their mothers when they are young. When they get older, they go off and live by themselves. The females stay together, however, and form very close

relationships.

"There's usually an older female elephant who leads the group," notes Rapaport. The females help each other take care of the young. And in times of danger, the group leader flaps her ears. This warning signal causes the adults to form a group facing outwards, with the young in the center.

Elephants seem to really enjoy being together. The beasts express their "joy" and "greetings" to one another through sounds and body movements. "Say one elephant gets lost," Thomsen explains. "When it finds its family again, there is a tremendous greeting with rumbling noises, ear flapping and trumpeting. They also pass gas and urinate!"

But there are also moments when elephants seem to be sad in a very human way, says Thomsen. "When a family member dies, the other elephants will hang around the body for a long time or come



How can you help the elephants in Africa survive? Don't buy anything made of ivory. A lot of ivory jewelry and trinkets come from illegally killed elephants.



▼ **Poachers killed 10 elephants for their tusks, leaving the rest to rot under the sun.**



▼ **Their message is clear: Ivory kills. Protestors in Kenya witnessed the burning of tusks taken from poachers.**



back again and again. If a baby dies, the mother might stand with it for hours."

### Good Vibrations

In studying elephants during the past few years, Jorgen Thomsen has been able to get a close-up view of them. "Elephants have a very distinct smell," he says. "If you know the smell of horses and you think of something 10 times stronger, that's the smell of elephants."

You can smell an elephant from far away, but you have to be fairly close to hear it. "They rumble," says Thomsen. "It's a very low noise they make in their throats." Thomsen says you can actually feel some of the elephant rumblings. "You can barely hear it. But when you sit close to the animal," he

explains, "you can feel the air throb. You can feel the vibrations in your body—it's like the vibrations of the lowest pipe on an organ."

### The Elephant's Last Stand?

It's too early to tell how much the world-wide ban on ivory will help the remaining elephants to survive. Even if all poaching stops, elephants face another threat: Their natural surroundings are shrinking.

As people clear jungles for farms, the elephants and humans compete for land, food and water. Jorgen Thomsen and other scientists have been working with people to find ways for humans and elephants to get along together. To many African farmers, an elephant is little more than a 10,000-pound

pest that can destroy a season's worth of corn in seconds.

But what the farmers may not know is that elephants play an important part in Africa's environment. Elephants dig up dead trees, which allows grasses and shrubs to take root. This provides food for many types of animals. When elephants dig with their tusks, they bring underground pools to the surface. This creates watering holes for other wild creatures. If elephants disappear from Africa, the future of much of Africa's wildlife would be in danger.

Today there are strict laws to protect elephants. And people have a better understanding of how important elephants are to the survival of many types of animals. So the future may be safer for these giants of the jungle. ♦





**H**owdy, Hackers! This is your old buddy, Slipped Disk, the world-famous computer expert and floppy disk jockey. A lot of you have been writing in to ask if my dog, Floppy, watches a lot of television. Of course not! He's too busy hanging out at the mall.

But I'm not hanging out at the mall, so I can answer this question from David Derr, 11, of Boulder, Colorado. David wants to know:

**"What is the fastest modem speed?"**

David, you probably mean how fast can a modem transmit computer data (information). As you know, a modem is a device that translates computer data into a signal that can be sent over telephone lines. A computer connected to a modem and a telephone wire can trade information with other computers (as long as the other computer also is connected to a modem and the

phone lines).

Modem speeds are measured in B.P.S., which stands for "bits per second."

A bit is the smallest piece of computer code.

Around 10 years ago, when personal computers started becoming popular, modems for personal computers usually had speeds of 300 b.p.s. That meant they could transmit 300 bits per second. It may sound like a lot,

how does it work?"

Kinv, one thing I do know is the difference between a real mouse and a computer mouse—real mice don't hold still long enough for you to click on their buttons.

But your computer mouse will probably hold still long enough for you to turn it over. On the bottom you will see a ball. That ball turns as you push the mouse around on your desk top. Inside the mouse, alongside the ball, are two small wheels. As the ball turns, it moves the two

wheels. One wheel measures the up and down movement of the mouse. The other

measures the side to side movement. A sensor attached to each wheel sends that information to your computer.

If you have a mouse attached to your computer, you can remove the ball and look inside. It should be removed every now and then so you can clean the two wheels inside. But don't do this yourself! Ask your parents or another adult to do it for you.

And while they're cleaning it up, why don't you mail in one of your computer questions? Send them to:

THE SLIPPED DISK SHOW  
3-2-1 CONTACT  
1 LINCOLN PLAZA  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10023



but it took about one minute to send one page of text. Today, most personal computer owners are buying modems with speeds of 1,200 or 2,400 b.p.s.

And speaking of speed, let's see how quickly I can answer the next question, which is from Kinv Panda, of San Antonio, Texas. Kinv asks:

**"What's inside a computer mouse and**



# DREAM MACHINES!

"The fuel-injected, turbo-charged V12 whines loudly held back by massive disc brakes, the dual exhaust pipes bellowing their protest

You smash down your right foot and you feel all the pent-up torque suddenly released. Finally, the huge rear tires dig and grip

The mighty engine whines its way up through second gear, the exhaust note rising steadily with the rpm of the engine Third gear socks in and the finish line comes up quickly Only 13 seconds for the quarter mile!"

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# BASIC TRAINING

## Programs For Your Computer

### STRESS TEST

It Will Drive You Crazy!

**D**on't you just hate it when things go wrong? You start to get angry, you lose your cool... If it keeps up, you'll feel stress.

Well, here's a program that is *supposed* to go wrong! It looks like a handy organizer, complete with calculator, address book and dictionary. But when you run it, things never go exactly the way you expect. The address book is where the dictionary should be. The calculator adds when you want it to subtract.

When you have the program running on your computer, invite a friend (or a parent) to use it. Tell him or her it's an office organizer program with a built-in, automatic stress test. Then get your friend to use it, but don't give any explanations when things go wrong. (You can say things like, "Gee, that's funny, why don't you try it again?")

After a while, the user is sure to select "quit" from the menu. That's when the results of the "stress test" will flash on

the screen. The longer the user held out before quitting, the higher the score will be.

Of course, it's not much of a test once you know what's happening, but it's still fun to figure out exactly what the program is doing. Just remember, if you don't get it the first time, try again—and stay calm!

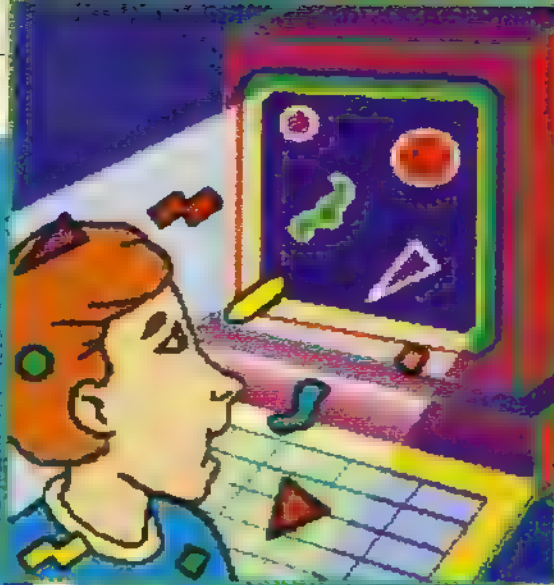
"Stress Test" is written for Apple II computers. To use it on the Commodore 64/128, change all HOME statements to PRINT CHR\$(147). For IBM machines, change all HOME statements to CLS.

```

10 REM STRESS TEST
20 DIM M$(6),N$(6),Z$(6)
30 FOR X = 1 TO 6
40 READ A$:M$(X) = A$
50 NEXT X
60 FOR X = 1 TO 6
70 READ A$:Z$(X) = A$
80 NEXT X
90 HOME
100 FOR X = 1 TO 6
110 N$(X) = " ":NEXT X
120 PRINT "MAIN MENU"
130 PRINT "CHOOSE ONE "
140 FOR X = 1 TO 6
150 C = INT ( RND (1) * 6) + 1
160 IF N$(C) = "X" THEN 150
170 C$ = M$(C)
180 N$(C) = "X"
190 PRINT X,") ";C$
200 NEXT X
210 PRINT "7) QUIT"
220 PRINT : INPUT A$
230 A = VAL (A$)
240 ON A GOTO
    250,540,650,750,920,1030,1150
250 REM CALCULATOR
260 HOME
270 PRINT "HANDY-DANDY
    CALCULATOR"
280 PRINT "DO YOU WANT TO:"
290 PRINT "1) ADD"
300 PRINT "2) SUBTRACT"
310 PRINT "3) MULTIPLY"
320 PRINT "4) DIVIDE"
330 PRINT "5) RETURN TO MAIN
    MENU"
340 PRINT : INPUT A$
350 IF VAL (A$) = 5 THEN 530
    
```







```

360 PRINT INPUT "INPUT FIRST
NUMBER:";AS
370 INPUT "INPUT SECOND
NUMBER:";AS
380 HOME
390 A = INT ( RND (1) * 4 ) + 1
400 ON A GOTO
410,430,450,470,530
410 PRINT "ADDING NUMBERS"
420 GOTO 480
430 PRINT "SUBTRACTING
NUMBERS"
440 GOTO 480
450 PRINT "MULTIPLYING
NUMBERS"
460 GOTO 480
470 PRINT "DIVIDING NUMBERS"
480 FOR DE = 1 TO 2000 NEXT DE
490 B = INT ( RND (1) * 1160 ) + 1
500 PRINT "THE ANSWER IS:";B
510 FOR DE = 1 TO 300 NEXT DE
520 S = S + 5 GOTO 260
530 S = S + 20 GOTO 90
540 REM HOROSCOPE
550 HOME PRINT "YOUR
HOROSCOPE"
560 INPUT "INPUT YOUR
BIRTHDAY (MONTH/DAY)";AS
570 HOME : PRINT "PLEASE
WAIT. "
580 FOR DE = 1 TO 5000 NEXT DE
590 A = INT ( RND (1) * 6 ) + 1
600 HOME : PRINT "YOUR
SIGN:";Z$(A)
610 PRINT "YOU WILL HAVE A
LOT OF"
620 PRINT "STRESS THIS MONTH"
630 FOR DE = 1 TO 1500 NEXT DE
640 S = S + 20 GOTO 90
650 REM DICTIONARY
660 HOME PRINT "COMPUTER
DICTIONARY"
670 INPUT "INPUT WORD FOR
DEFINITION ";AS
680 HOME PRINT "PLEASE
WAIT. "
690 A = INT ( RND (1) * 2 ) + 1
700 IF A < 2 THEN 570
710 FOR DE = 1 TO 1500 NEXT DE
720 PRINT "WORD NOT FOUND"
730 FOR DE = 1 TO 1000 NEXT DE
740 S = S + 30 GOTO 90
750 REM DIET PLANNER
760 HOME PRINT "DIET
PLANNER"
770 INPUT "ENTER FOOD
NAME ";AS
780 PRINT "ENTER CORRECT
FOOD GROUP"
790 PRINT "(1) PROTEIN"
800 PRINT "(2) CARBOHYDRATES"

```

```

810 PRINT "3) FATS"
820 INPUT AS
830 INPUT "ENTER TOTAL
CALORIES CONSUMED
TODAY ";AS
840 INPUT "ENTER YOUR DAILY
CALORIE LIMIT:";AS
850 INPUT "YOUR WEIGHT:";AS
860 INPUT "HAIR COLOR ";AS
870 PRINT "PLEASE WAIT..."
880 FOR DE = 1 TO 2000 NEXT DE
890 PRINT "SORRY, NOT ENOUGH
DATA"
900 FOR DE = 1 TO 1500 NEXT DE
910 S = S + 55 GOTO 90
920 REM SCORPIO PLAN
930 HOME : PRINT "YOU ARE AT
THE END OF A"
940 PRINT "LONG, DARK
TUNNEL"
950 PRINT "THE EVIL WIZARD
MEGALOMURK HAS"
960 PRINT "TURNED YOUR
SWORD INTO"
970 PRINT "A SMALL MICROWAVE
OVEN"
980 PRINT "SUDDENLY A HUGE
EIGHT-ARMED"
990 PRINT "GOBLIN APPEARS"
1000 PRINT "WHAT DO YOU DO?"
1010 INPUT AS
1020 S = S + 35 GOTO 780
1030 REM APPOINTMENTS
1040 HOME PRINT "URGENT!!!"
1050 PRINT "PRINT 'IMPORTANT
APPOINTMENT TODAY'"
1060 PRINT "PRINT 'DO NOT
MISS'"
1070 PRINT "PRINT 'CHOOSE
ONE '"
1080 PRINT "(1) APPOINTMENT
INFORMATION"
1090 PRINT "(2) MONTHLY
CALENDAR"
1100 PRINT "3) DELETE

```

```

APPOINTMENT FILES"
1110 INPUT AS
1120 HOME : PRINT "DELETING
FILES"
1130 FOR DE = 1 TO 2000
NEXT DE
1140 S = S + 45 GOTO 90
1150 HOME
1160 PRINT "STRESS TEST
RESULTS "
1170 PRINT "YOU QUIT
AFTER";S;"UNITS OF
STRESS"
1180 IF S < 50 THEN SS =
"NERVOUS WRECK"
GOTO 1220
1190 IF S < 150 THEN SS = "NO
PATIENCE" GOTO 1220
1200 IF S < 500 THEN SS = "A
LITTLE JUMPY" GOTO 1220
1210 SS = "STEADY AS A ROCK"
1220 PRINT "YOUR STRESS
RATING IS:";SS
1230 END
1240 DATA CALCULATOR,
HOROSCOPE,
DICTIONARY, DIET
PLANNER, ADDRESS BOOK,
APPOINTMENTS
1250 DATA SCORPIO, LEO,
AQUARIUS, PISCES, VIRGO,
CANCER

```

## SEND US YOUR PROGRAMS

If you've written a program you'd like us to print, send it in. If we like it, we'll print it and send you \$25. Include a note telling us your name, address, age, T-shirt size and type of computer.

All programs must be your own original work. We cannot return programs. Please do not send discs.

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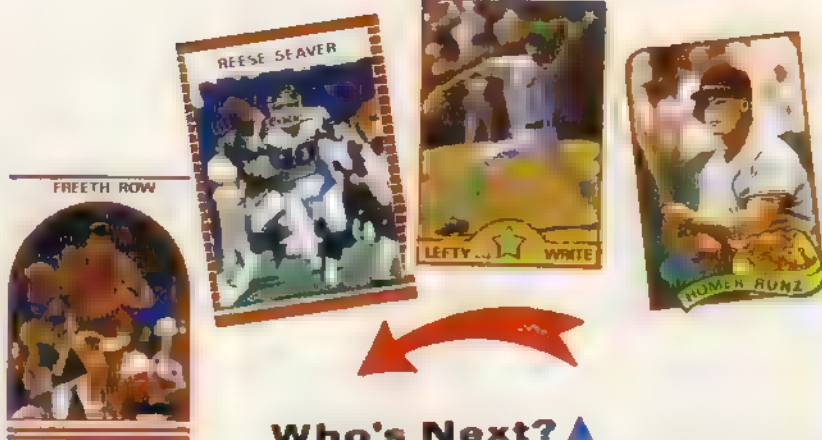


# TRICKY TRADING

R  
D

P

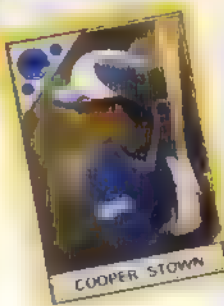
U



## Who's Next? ▲

Study this trail of cards carefully. Start at the arrow and go counterclockwise. Can you guess which of the three cards in the circle should go next?

(Hint: Look at the sport that is being played on each card.)



## ◀ Going To Pieces

Here is a rare 1939 Soupy Campbell baseball card. We've chopped it into pieces. But look carefully! We've added one extra piece that was never part of the card. Can you spot the phony piece?



Z

Z

L

E

S



### The World's Worst Athlete ▲

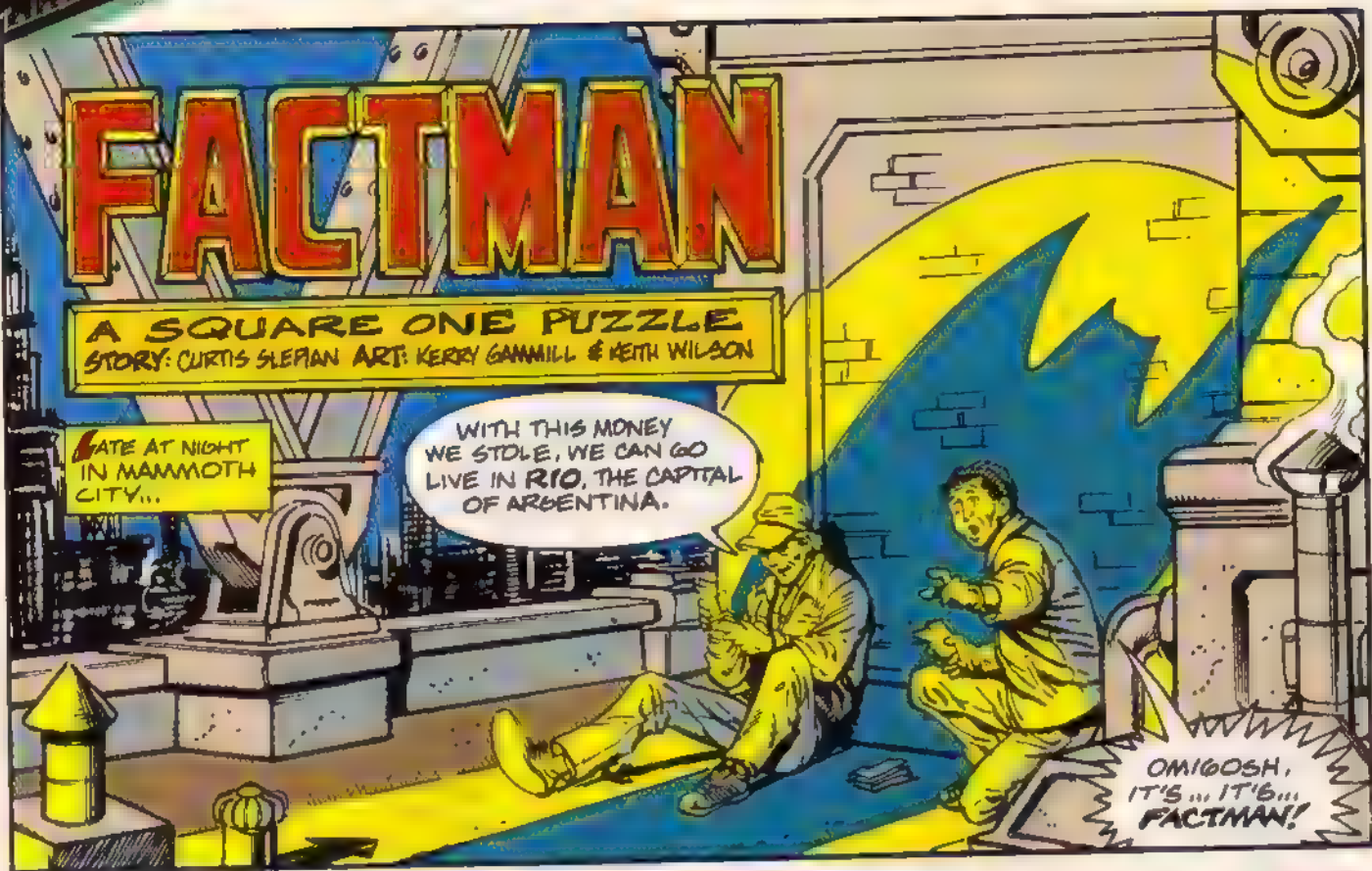
Here are nine of the worst sports stars in the world. Can you guess which one is the worst athlete of all time?

Read the three clues below. Then study the cards. The athlete on the card that fits all three clues is the world's crummiest champ.

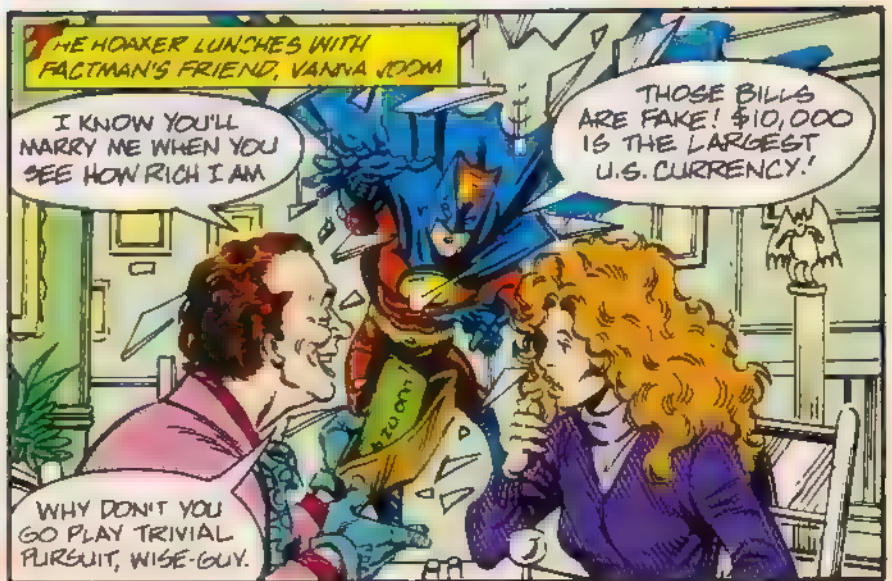
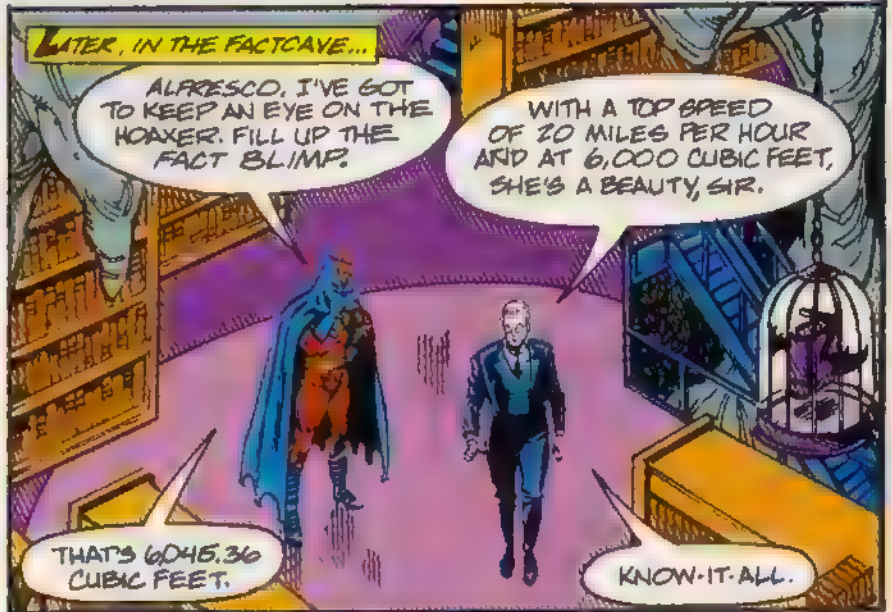
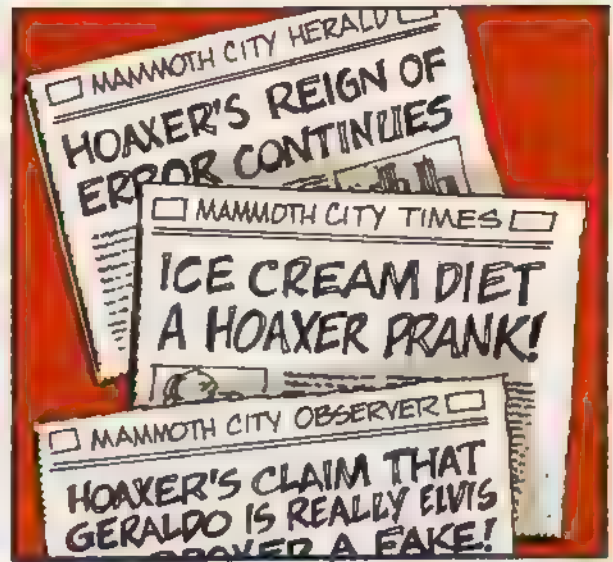
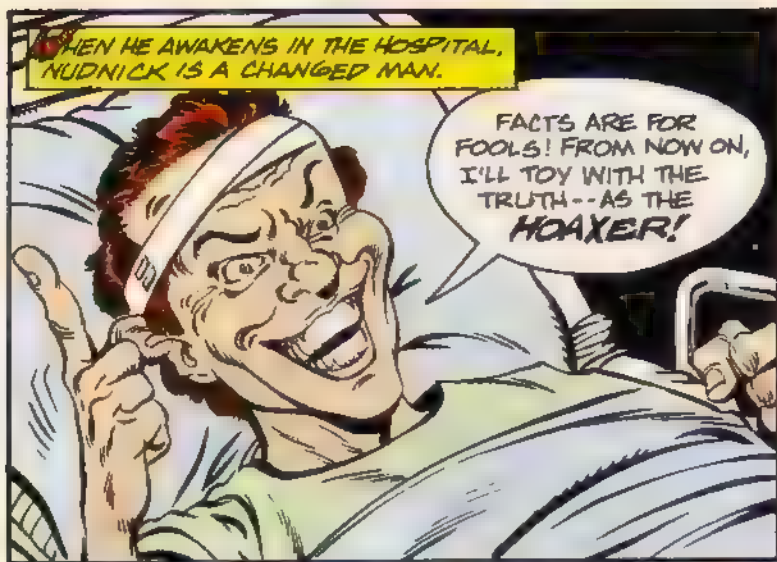
#### The clues:

- There are no triangles on the champ's card.
- The champ's last name has more than six letters.
- The champ does not play hockey.

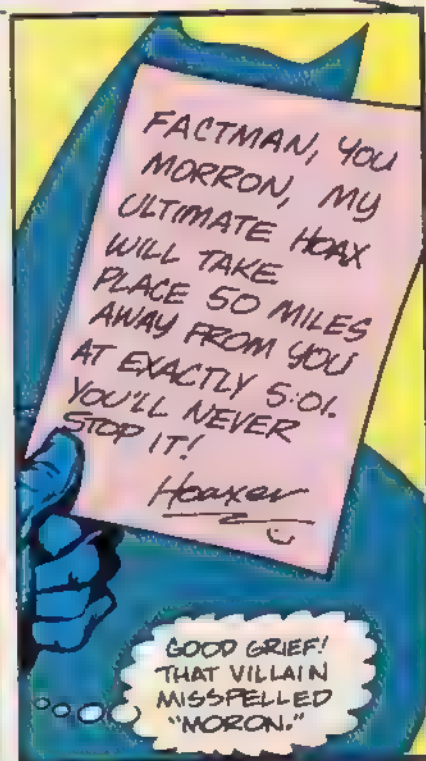
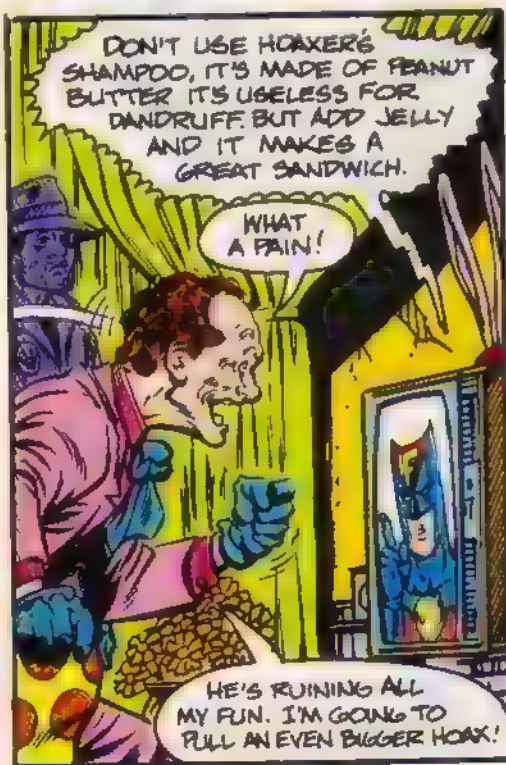
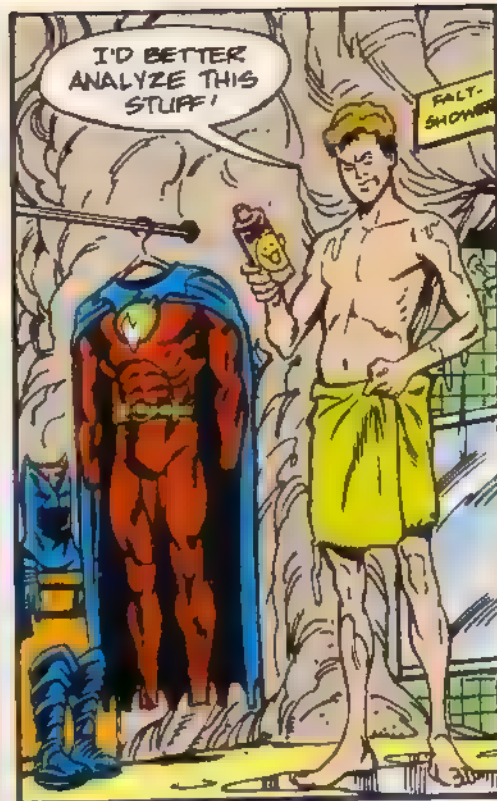
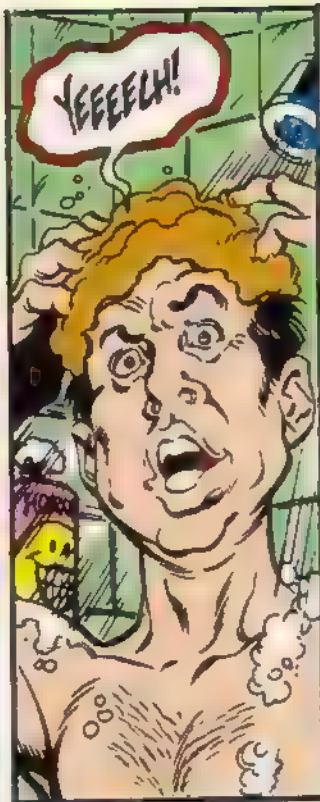
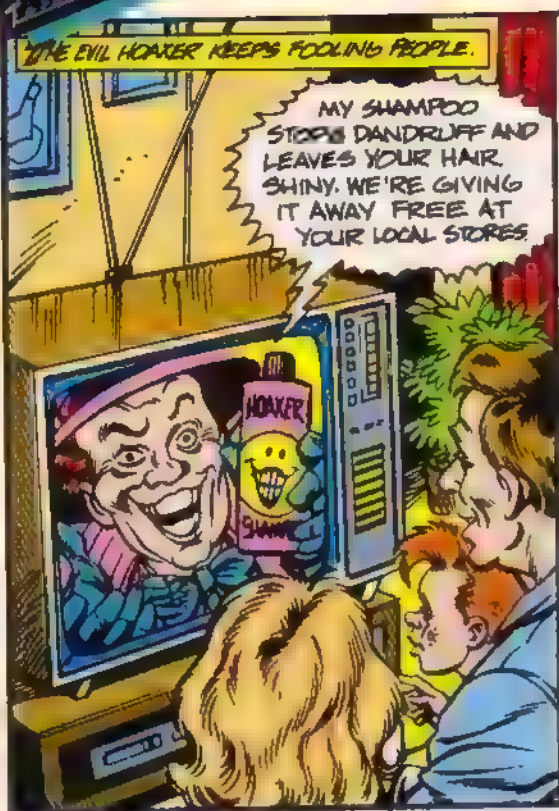












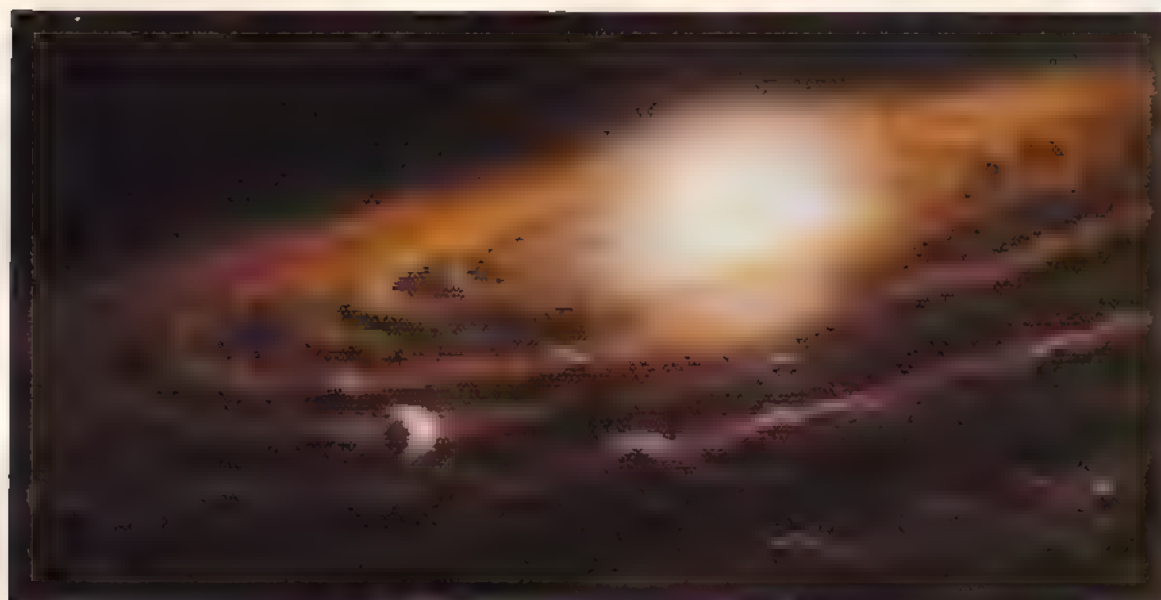
IF THE FACT BLIMP, PARKED OUTSIDE THE WAREHOUSE, CAN GO 20 MILES PER HOUR, CAN FACTMAN GET TO THE SITE OF THE HOAX IN TIME TO STOP IT? ANSWER ON THE DID IT PAGE



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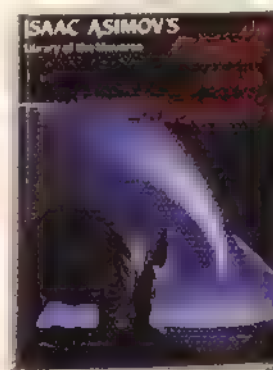


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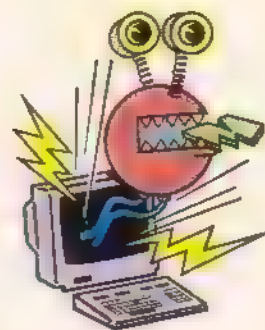
the cause of the dinosaurs' death may have come from space. If this fascinating book, Free, with our compliments, doesn't stimulate the curiosity of your children to learn more about the wonders of the universe, you are under no obligation to purchase even a single book in the series.



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mail it today!



# THE BLOODHOUND GANG



## THE CASE OF THE PHANTOM HACKER by Dan Ellish

Which one's Sam Kennon?"

"Don't know. The boss said he's a kid with freckles and glasses."

The two men in overcoats were at the Mayfield Junior High Computer Fair. The room was filled with kids, sitting in front of terminals. Slowly, the two men circled the room. Halfway around, they found a boy who matched the description. The initials SK were on the side of his computer.

"That's gotta stand for Sam Kennon," one of the men whispered.

The other man grabbed the boy by his collar.

"OK, Sam—you're coming with us."

The boy turned around.

"What?"

"Come on, Kennon," barked the man holding him. "Everybody knows you're the area's best computer jock and that you work on the side for Alpha Corporation. No one's gonna hurt you. Our boss wants to have a little chat."

"I'm not Sam Kennon," the boy said. "My name is Skip."

"Sure it is," the man said, laughing.

Whisked out of the room by the two men, Skip King, a member of the Bloodhound Gang, soon found himself in front of a mansion on the edge of town. Skip was led into a huge living room. A moment later, a man in a gray suit entered the room.

"Sam Kennon," he began, shaking Skip's hand. "We finally meet face to face."

"You've got the wrong guy," Skip protested. "My name is Skip."

The man laughed and sat down on the sofa.

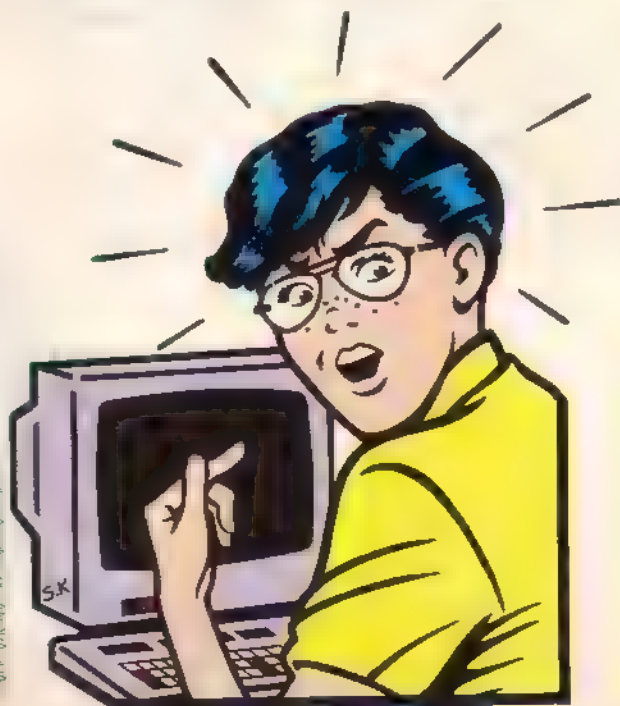
"What loyalty Alpha Corporation inspires! I hope you'll be that loyal to me, Sam. My name is R.J. Rathbone. I am the president of Beta Computer Industries."

Skip nodded. He had no choice but to play along as Sam Kennon.

### Bugged-Out Computers

"We've learned," Rathbone continued, "that you have developed a new computer anti-virus."

Skip knew that a virus was a special computer program that had the ability to eat away memory from another computer's memory bank. Or erase all the files on a disc. An





"anti-virus" was a program that could protect a computer's memory. The threat of hackers unleashing virus programs forced computer whizzes to create anti-virus programs.

"I'm offering you \$5,000 to leave the Alpha Corporation and join Beta," Rathbone said. "Of course, you'd also have to give us your anti-virus program."

"Well," Skip stammered, "I'll need time to think about it."

"Take all the time you want," smiled Rathbone. "Just give me an answer in 12 hours—or else!"

A half hour later, Skip, Vikki and Ricardo were in the Bloodhound Gang's office, mulling over Skip's puzzling experience.

"It's weird," Vikki said. "Why did Rathbone think you were Sam Kennon?"

Skip shrugged. "I can't figure it out."

"And why would Beta Industries want that anti-virus?" Ricardo asked.

"Everyone's scared of viruses, so everybody wants a good anti-virus," Skip explained. "In fact, I just read an article in *Computer Week* about the theft of an anti-virus program from Michel Deschamps, the great French computer wizard."

After a moment's thought, Vikki said, "If what Rathbone says is true, Sam Kennon is also a computer wizard with a brilliant anti-virus program. Maybe we should start by tracking down the real Sam Kennon at the Alpha Corporation."

### The Search for Sam

**T**he Gang drove to a skyscraper at the center of town. Outside the building was one of the men working for Rathbone.

Strolling up to Skip, the man growled, "The boss wants an answer, Sam. And soon!"

Skip said nervously to the Gang, "I'd better find Kennon in a hurry."

An elevator took the Gang to the 10th floor. At the end of the hall was a steel door with a sign reading "Alpha Corporation." Vikki pushed it open and flicked on the lights. Computer terminals were spread out over a large office.

"Nobody's here," Ricardo said.

"Look!" Skip said. "Sam Kennon's desk!"

The Gang gathered around. Before them was a clean computer terminal. A nameplate

reading SAM KENNON was sitting on the front of the desk.

"Something's strange," Vikki said. "This desk hasn't been used very much lately."

Skip nodded. "You're right. The paper in the printer is untouched."

"Yeah," Ricardo added. "And there are no papers, pencils or anything around the desk."

Just then, a man carrying a mop and pail entered the room. The Gang turned around.

"Hello, there," he said cheerfully. He looked at Skip. "You must be Sam Kennon."



The Gang exchanged glances. Suddenly, everybody thought Skip was Sam Kennon!

"Have we met?" Skip asked, haltingly.

"Of course not," the janitor replied. "I only come in on Saturdays and you only joined the company last Monday."

"Oh, right..." Skip replied.

"Say," the janitor went on, "Why aren't you over at the meeting?"

"Meeting?" Vikki said.

"Sure. All the big computer corporations are there. It's a state-sponsored event. Each computer company presents its most interesting programs. Then a panel of experts picks the best one. The company that developed it gets research money from the state."

Skip shook his head. "It must've slipped my mind. Thanks." Turning to the Gang, he said, "For my sake, I hope Sam is there."

The computer meeting was nearby, in a large auditorium in town hall. When the Gang arrived, Charles Wills, the president



# THE BLOODHOUND GANG

of Alpha Corporation, was beginning his presentation.

"And as you can see," Wills proclaimed, "this anti-virus program is the work of a genius. Amazingly, this genius is a mere boy named Sam Kennon. Sadly, a sudden fever has kept him in bed. But he has allowed me to present his program for him."

"Wow," Ricardo whispered. "That Sam Kennon guy is hard to track down. I'm beginning to think he doesn't exist."

Vikki's eyes opened wide. Something clicked. "Maybe he doesn't."

## Catching an Anti-Virus

**I** was only kidding," said Ricardo. "He must exist somewhere."

"Then why was his desk at Alpha unused even though he supposedly had been working there for five days?"

"But if there's no Sam Kennon," Skip asked, "who invented the anti-virus program?"

"Remember that article on the theft of the French anti-virus program? What if Alpha stole it?" Vikki exclaimed. "And since it was such a revolutionary program, Alpha had to pretend they had a new worker—a genius—who discovered it."

This was turning into some case! A loud voice got everyone's attention.

"Sam Kennon isn't sick. He's right over there!"

R.J. Rathbone was pointing at Skip. All eyes in the room were on the Gang.

Vikki rose to her feet. "This boy isn't Sam Kennon—because Sam Kennon doesn't exist!"

A man from the state office stood up.

"Young lady, could you please come here and explain what's going on?"

Vikki walked to the front of the room. "I'll bet you that Alpha's anti-virus program is the one stolen from Michel Deschamps!"

"She's insane!" Charles Wills shouted.

"No, I'm not," Vikki said quietly. "I dare you to compare the two programs."

At first, Charles Wills denied everything. But then he confessed. He realized that as soon as the two programs were compared he would be caught anyway. As a police officer read Wills his rights, Rathbone tried to sneak out the door.

"Stop that man!" Skip yelled. "Thinking I



was Sam Kennon, he offered me a \$5,000 bribe to steal the anti-virus program."

Another police officer ran Rathbone down. The state official praised the Gang.

"Thanks to your work, the world is now safer for computer operators everywhere."

"Did you hear?" Skip said to the Gang in their office the next day. "The government put both Alpha and Beta on probation. Neither will receive state funding for two years. And

Wills and Rathbone will have to stand trial."

Ricardo started laughing.

"What's so funny?" Vikki asked.

"It just goes to show," he said. "When someone fools around with viruses, they're going to end up in bad shape!" ♦

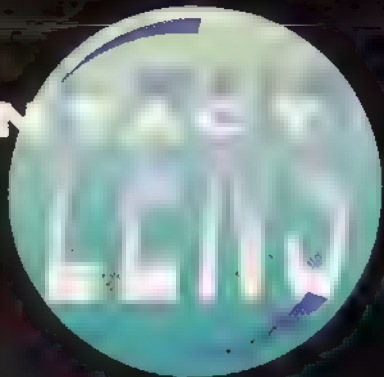


THE BLOODHOUND GANG

Whenever there's trouble,  
We're here on the double...



CONTACT



Spooky, huh? But this fish, called the deep-sea swallower, isn't as monstrous as it may appear. The snakelike fish is only six inches long. Although it's quite small, there's still lots of head room—its head makes up a third of its body size.

## DEEP-SEA MONSTER

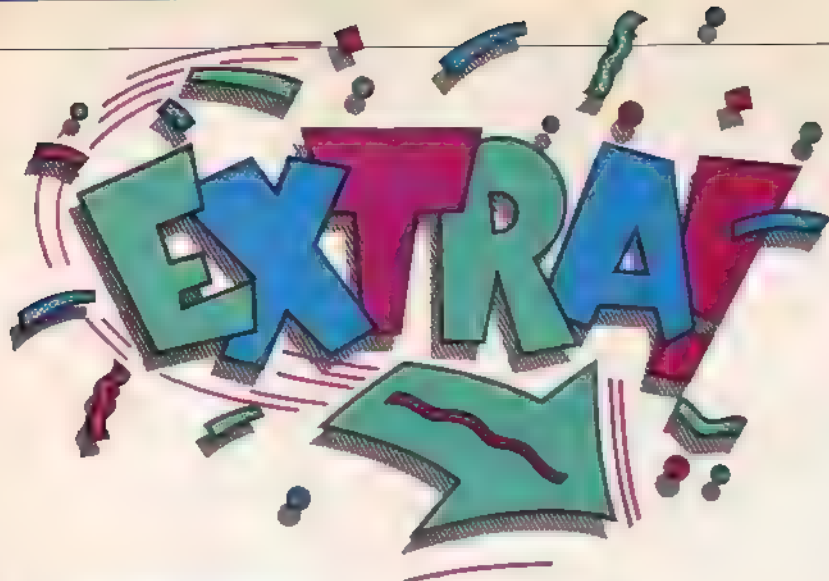
You won't see this ugly mug staring back at you at any pet store, though. The deep-sea swallower lives in the ocean at depths of 1,000 to 3,000 feet.

At those depths, meals don't swim by too often. That's why this bathing beauty is all mouth—it has to be ready to nab victims at any time...or any

size. The deep-sea swallower can unhinge its jaws to swallow prey almost as big as itself. Equipped with this kind of creature feature, it gets along swimmingly.



PHOTO: T. KOBAYASHI



by Russell Glnns

## PETAL POWER

April showers bring...May flowers! So we've hidden lots of them in this word search. Words go up, down, across and backwards. Use our word list. Circle them all, and the leftover letters will spell a May holiday when you'll want to give a flower to someone special. The answer is in full bloom on the Did It page.



rose	lily	buttercup
carnation	orchid	violet
poppy	lilac	daffodil
iris	marigold	daisy
snapdragon	dandelion	posy
petunia	tulip	

N O I T A N R A C M S  
 D A F F O D I L O Y N  
 L T D I H C R O H P A  
 O B U T T E R C U P P  
 G E Y E S O R R S O D  
 I L S L D T U L I P R  
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 A L A I N U T E P O G  
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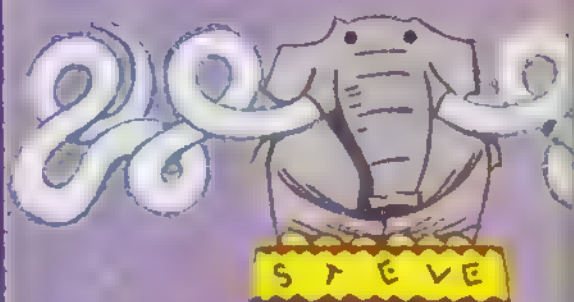


## TUSK, TUSK!

Bobby and Harriet's kids have beautiful tusks. But look closely: Two of the elephant kids have tusks that are exactly the same.

Can you spot the elephants that have identical ivories?

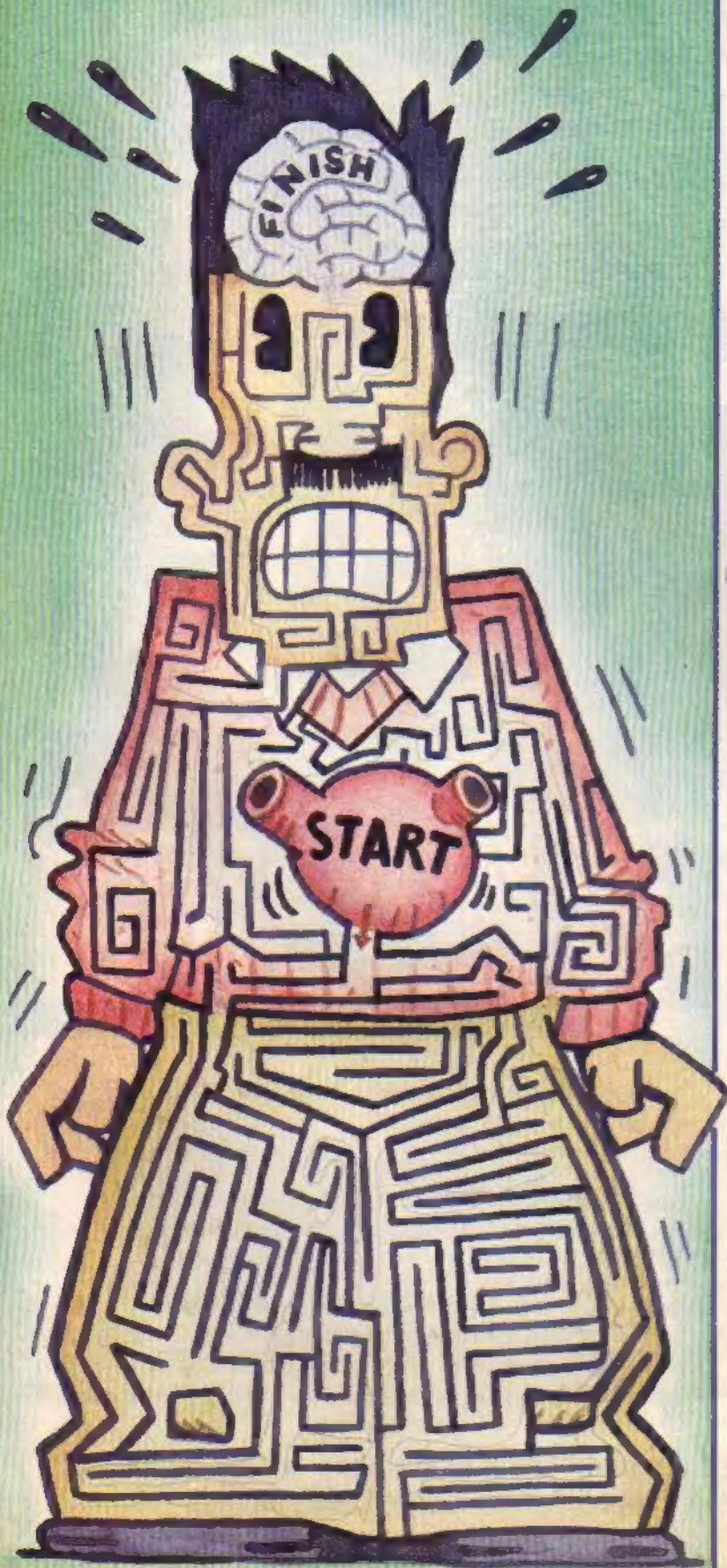
Answer on the Did It page.





## PANIC PULSE

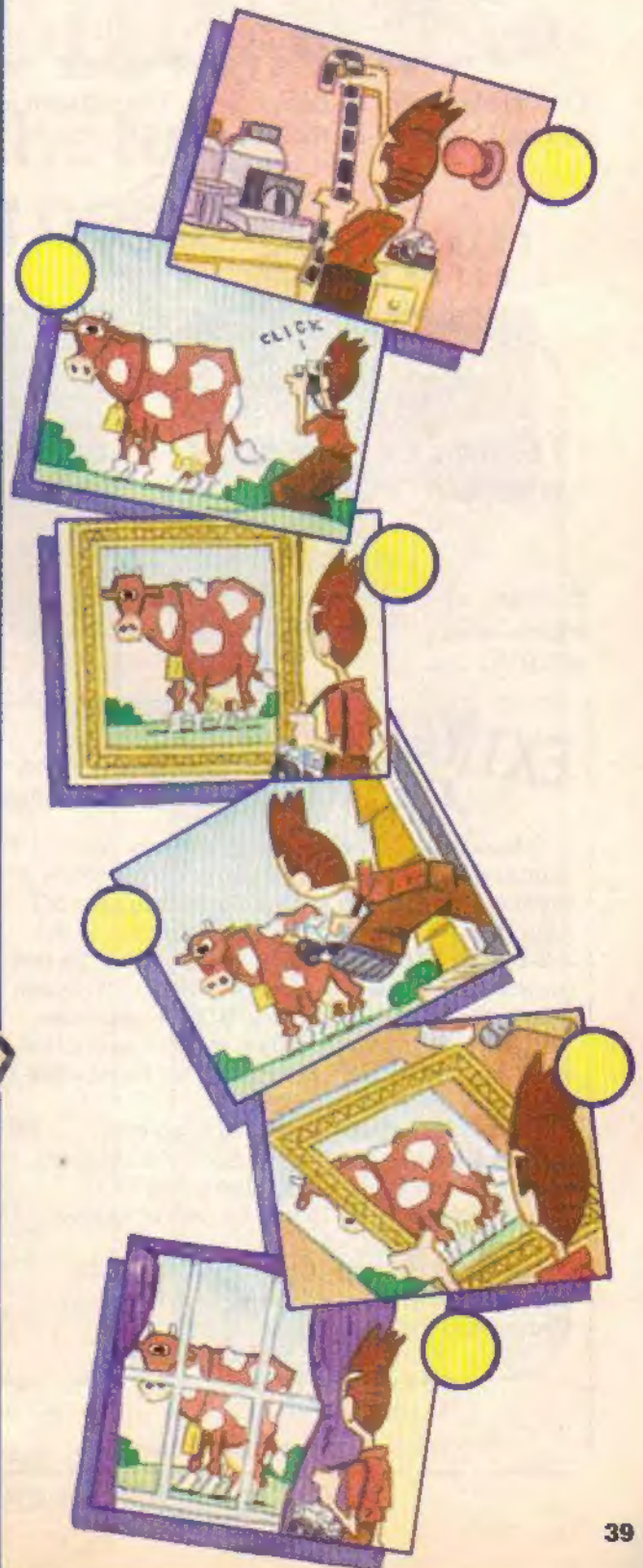
Mr. Quiggles just became very nervous. So his heart is beating a lot faster than it usually does. Can you find a path from his heart to his brain? Answer on the Did It page.



## SAY CHEESE!

Here are six pictures that we've mixed up. Can you put them in the right order, so they'll tell a story?

Scramble to the Did It page for the answer.





# Did it

## WHO'S NEXT?

The baseball card should go next. The pattern is baseball-baseball-football-basketball.

## GOING TO PIECES



## THE WORLD'S WORST ATHLETE

Answer: Larry Birdbrain.

## FACTMAN COMIC

Factman arrived at 5:00. But he had been double-hoaxed: There was no "ultimate" hoax at 5:01!

## EXTRA! EXTRA!

### ADVERTISEMENT

"The Rotten Truth" is on Videocassette!

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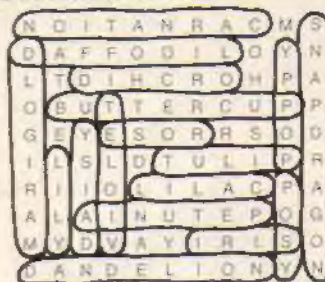
Call 1-800-822-1105—Operator #12 (Credit Cards Only) Or Send \$17.45 (Check or Money Order Only) to:

VCA—"The Rotten Truth"  
50 Leyland Drive  
Leonia, NJ 07605

New York State residents please add sales tax.

## PETAL POWER

Answer: MOTHER'S DAY.



## TUSK, TUSKI!

Ron and Amy have identical tusks.

## PANIC PULSE

## SAY CHEESE!



## NEXT MONTH

What's coming in the June CONTACT?

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CONTACT unearths the latest amazing facts about everybody's favorite prehistoric critters.

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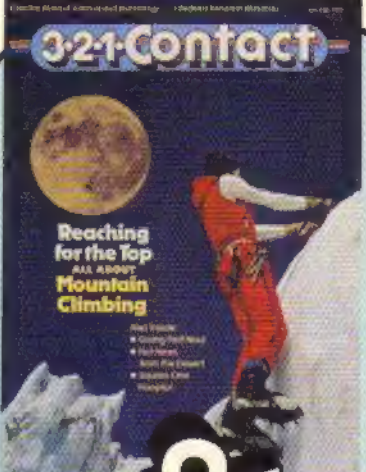
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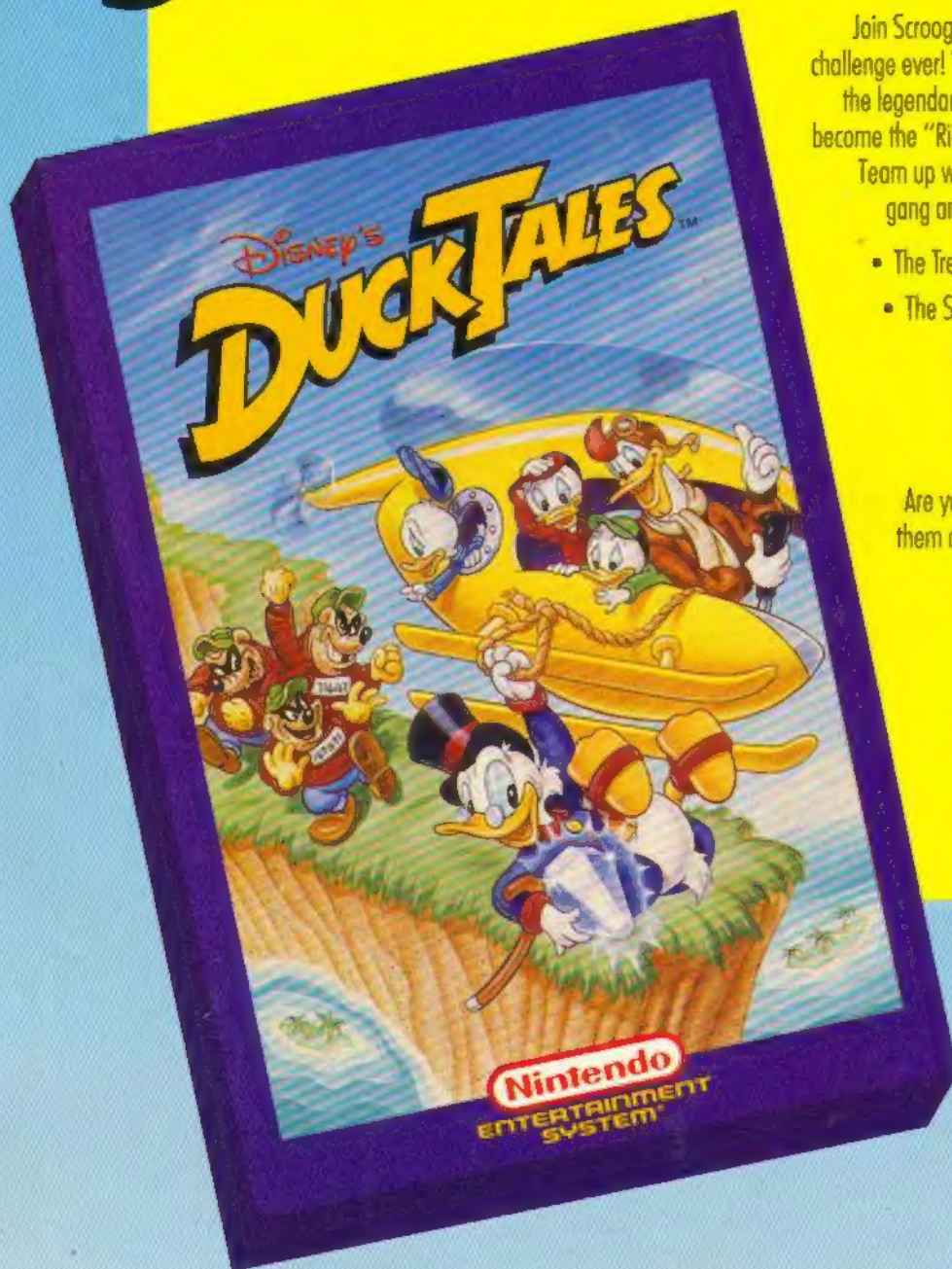
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